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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Tripartite Committee Discusses Lebanon

LD3107164389 Algiers APS in Arabic 1425 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Algiers, 31 Jul, (APS)—Boualem Bessaieh, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, and Abdellatif Filali—the foreign ministers of Algeria, Saudi Arabi, and Morocco—met today in Algiers in the presence of Lakhdar Ibrahimi, assistant secretary-general of the Arab League.

The talks, which took place in camera, addressed the task of the higher tripartite Arab committee on Lebanon.

Issues Communique 31 Jul

LD3107233889 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Communique issued by the Arab Tripartite Committee in Algiers on 31 July]

[Text] The members of the Arab higher committee—His Majesty King Hassan II, the sovereign of the Moroccan Kingdom; King Fahd Ibn-'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques and the sovereign of the Kingdom; and His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria—have held contacts and consultations in order to assess the implementation of their plan to resolve the Lebanese crisis which they adopted in Rabat, particularly the new initiatives which they adopted in Oran and which aim at moving from the security stage—including the consolidation of the ceasefire, opening crossing points, and lifting blockades—to the stage of starting a Lebanese national dialogue.

In this respect, the committee suggested first convening a meeting of parliamentarians outside Lebanon for consultations and agreement on reviving all the Lebanese constitutional institutions and on introducing the necessary political reforms into Lebanese society, so that it can live in an era in which justice, peace, and reconciliation prevail, an era which could avert division and fratricide in Lebanon and which would enable it, thanks to fraternity and solidarity among all its sons, to build a future in which unity, independence, and civilized behavior prevail within the Arab and international communities.

The supreme goal of the committee was to end the Lebanese tragedies through a comprehensive and complete solution, which takes into consideration all the objective data and restores to the Lebanese their rights under the aegis of freedom, sovereignty, and pride.

From this premise, the committee's concern was to look for a means to end the violence—whatever its sources—with the aim of lessening the pain of Lebanese citizens and consequently preparing the way for a political solution which would guarantee to fraternal Lebanon the revival of its constitutional institutions and establish a government of national unity. Voices have been frequently raised loud and strong for the establishment of the latter.

In pursuance of the Arab summit resolutions issued in Casablanca and to carry out the mission with which the committee was entrusted, a program of action, which the committee considers as characterized by justice and reason, was laid down in order to tackle the Lebanese crisis from all its internal and external aspects.

The committee was fully aware that the Lebanese crisis, which has gone on for 14 years without a solution, has begun to be a great source of danger for the Arab world, with increasing possibilities of division and fragmentation in Lebanon. So that the continuous disputes between the Lebanese will not lead to something whose consequences would be feared, the committee saw that in the absence of reconciliation between the various parties, it had no choice but to contribute its own ideas of how to resolve the crisis. This conception includes suggestions which constitute a compromise solution, which would be submitted to Lebanese parliamentarians, and through which the required balance would be achieved between the various tendencies and goals. The committee has effectively prepared a draft document for national concord which is in harmony with the resolution issued at the Casablanca summit and provides the necessary amount of balance which is needed to implement the summit resolution. On the basis of the latter, the proposed document of concord has truly become a pillar of the committee's work and the essence of the contacts made by the committee with the various concerned and international parties.

The aim of the committee was for the document to be submitted to the parliamentarians for discussion in preparation for achieving the goals adopted by the Casablanca conference to solve the Lebanon crisis. At the forefront of these aims is the achievement of concord among the Lebanese. This concord should be based on the resolution of constitutional reforms, holding presidential elections, and the formation of a government of national concord in order to preserve the unity of Lebanon—its sovereignty and Arabism—to extend the authority of the Lebanese state on all the Lebanese territory with its own forces, and to work for the liberation of Lebanon from Israeli occupation through the implementation of Resolution 425 and the other international resolutions stipulating the elimination of Israeli occupation and the securing of the departure of the other non-Arab forces from Lebanon.

The proposed document on national concord is based on the following fundamental rules:

First, political reforms: The project of political reform includes real participation by Muslims and Christians in a way which secures a balance in the executive and

legislative powers in the country. The committee sincerely believes that the proposed reform project is a fair one which meets Lebanese aspirations for coexistence under a free parliamentarian democratic system which achieves equal opportunities for citizens and helps edify a just, strong, and capable Lebanese state.

Second, extending the authority of the Lebanese state over all Lebanese territory with its own forces in conformity with the resolution of the Casablanca extraordinary Arab summit according to the formula given below.

Third, liberating Lebanon from Israeli occupation by employing all means in order to implement Resolution 425 and all Security Council resolutions stipulating the comprehensive removal of the Israeli occupation, and remaining attached to the truce agreement signed in 1949.

Fourth, Lebanese-Syrian relations: stressing Lebanon's relations with Syria which acquire their strength from kinship, history, and common strategic interests, and the necessity of coordination and cooperation in conformity with agreements in various fields in a way which meets the interests of the two sister countries, and also stressing that Lebanon should not jeopardize Syria's security, and that Syria should not jeopardize Lebanon's security, in any way whatsoever, according to the formula given below.

These are the principal foundations in the committee's vision to solve all aspects of the Lebanese crisis. In light of this, the committee wanted to call on the members of the parliament to shoulder their historic responsibility, discuss the proposed document on national concord freely, and implement any amendments on it in preparation for its ratification by the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, so that they are able to elect a president of the Republic, and form a national concord government which will engage in implementing the stipulations of the document on national concord.

Prior to the committee's call on deputies to meet outside Lebanon, the committees made contact with all the parties related to the Lebanese crisis, in addition to the contacts carried out by the committee's envoy to Lebanon with the Lebanese parties.

The efforts of the committee focused during these contacts on the security and political aspects. Concerning the security side of this crisis, it was necessary to grant this side the priority it deserves in order to ensure the necessary security conditions for its political action. As for the political side, the committee informed all the sides which it contacted about the guidelines included in the conception of the political solution:

I. All have welcomed the Casablanca summit resolution, and announced their support of the Higher Arab committee and their preparedness to cooperate with it in order to faciliate its mission. However, at the level of the determined practical decisions submitted by the committee in implementation of the Casablanca resolution, the following remarks are made:

First, long delay in opening the crossing points between the eastern region of the Lebanese capital and its neighboring regions.

Second, the maritime blockade on eastern Beirut ports was not lifted because some Lebanese sides insist on setting up a device which searches ships, and does not grant entry to ships carrying arms and ammunitions at a time when other Lebanese sides request lifting the blockade without any conditions.

Third, the refusal of some officials to reopen Beirut's international airport, which lies in the western area, before the lifting of the naval blockade of ports in eastern area.

Fourth, most of the members of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies agree to hold a meeting outside Lebanon in readiness for the convening of their assembly at its official headquarters in Beirut. However, quite a number of them underline the need to lift the siege before inviting the deputies to meet at home or abroad.

II. Contacts With Syria

Contacts with Syria dealt with the political and security sides of the crisis. The committee explained to the brothers in Syria the need for them to contribute to the security side of the problem and what this requires in the way of action to stop the fighting, reopen the crossing points, and lift the naval blockade imposed on the shores of the eastern area.

Syria agreed to reopen the crossing points and made the lifting of the naval blockade conditional on forming a security mechanism, the task of which would be to search vessels in order to prevent arms reaching the eastern sector of the Lebanese capital. Syria offered to undertake not to supply other Lebanese sides with arms.

Concerning the political side, the discussion with Syria touched on two basic points, the extension of the authority of the Lebanese state over all the Lebanese soil by means of its own forces, and the future of Syrian-Lebanese relations.

With regard to the question of extending Lebanese sovereignty, the committee put forward the following view:

The objective of the Lebanese state is to extend its authority over the entire Lebanese soil by means of its own forces, represented in the first place by the internal security forces, and from the position of fraternal relations which link Syria with Lebanon. The Syrian forces are to be thanked for assisting the lawful Lebanese forces in extending the authority of the Lebanese state to all

places where the Syrian forces are situated within a period of time and during which the Syrian forces would assembly and set up positions in the area of al-Biqa'.

As agreement has been reached with the Lebanese sides over the rise of the strong Lebanese state which is a cabal and which is built on the basis of the national accord, a matter that requires the laying out of a comprehensive security plan embracing all of Lebanon, the broad lines of which feature the following:

First, to declare the dissolution of all the Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias and the handing-over of their weapons to the Lebanese state during a specific period of time.

Second, to strengthen the internal security forces by:

A. Reopening the door to enlistment of all the Lebanese without exception and to begin with their training centrally, then distributing them to the units in the provinces while they follow periodic and organized training courses.

B. To strengthen the security machine with whatever serves to control the influx and exodus of people into and out of the borders by land, sea, and air.

Third, to strengthen the armed forces:

A. The basic task of the armed forces is to defend the homeland, and when the need arises, to protect the general order when danger goes beyond the capability of the internal security forces to tackle it alone.

B. The preparation and the training of the armed forces are undertaken so they will be capable of shouldering their national responsibilities in confronting aggression.

C. When the internal security forces are ready to assume their security duties the armed forces will return to their barracks.

D. The reorganization of the intelligence organs of the armed forces is to take place for the purpose of serving military objectives and nothing else.

Fourth, solving the problem of the Lebanese evacuees and upholding the right of each Lebanese evacuee since the year 1975 to return to the place from which he was evicted and to lay down legislation guaranteeing this right, and to provide the means that ensure reconstruction.

With regard to the question of relations between Syria and Lebanon, the committee's view contained the following:

Lebanon, an Arab country by affiliation and identity, is linked by fraternal true relations with all the Arab states. Distinguished relations exist between Lebanon and Syria; they derive their strength from neighborly roots, history, and strategic joint interests. Coordination and cooperation between the two countries hinge on this concept, which will be defined by agreements between them.

On the basis of the foregoing, a security agreement should be signed between the Syrian and Lebanese Governments under the auspices of the higher Arab committee. There should also be an agreement signed under which the centers, size, and duration of the presence of Syrian forces in the al-Biqa' valley are decided by the two governments under the auspices of the higher Arab committee.

The Syrian leadership expressed appreciation for the endeavors of the committee. It expressed the desire to lend support for realizing the committee's aims toward solving the Lebanese crisis. The Syrian position, however, concerning the extension of sovereignty, takes an aim contrary to the view put forward by the committee which affirms the importance of drawing up a timetable under which the government of Lebanese national accord extends its power to all Lebanese soil by means of its own forces. According to the Syrian view, the issue of extending Lebanese authority over all Lebanese territory must not be settled in advance and in accordance with a specific timetable; rather, this matter should be left until after a national unity government has been formed in Lebanon.

It is clear that Syrian direction in this matter is not in agreement with the concept that has been put forward by the committee, which is based on the assumption that if the question of political reforms demanded by numerous sides in Lebanon is to proceed, the demands of other sides in Lebanon must also be met, and the question of extending the authority of the Lebanese state in a frank and clear manner adopted by the committee in its proposed document must also be tackled.

As to the question of the future of Syrian-Lebanese relations, Syria considered that the proposal of the committee is not in agreement with its view as to how these relations should be with regard to strategic, security, economic, social, and other aspects.

III. Contacts With Iraq

The foreign ministers of the member states in the committee held talks with his excellency President Saddam Husayn at the request of the committee. The ministers put forward the view of the committee on a political solution. His excellency the president expressed Iraq's readiness to support the efforts of the committee and his commitment to responding to the committee's request concerning ending the supply of weapons to the warring sides in Lebanon.

IV. International Contacts

At the level of international relations, the efforts of the committee focused on requesting these sides' support for the point of view of the proposed solution, and on benefitting from the influence these sides could have in order to achieve the hoped-for concord in Lebanon and in preparing the necessary security climate to achieve the aims of the committee. The permanent member-countries of the UN Security Council were reminded of their responsibilities in connection with putting an end to the Israeli occupation of Lebanon, and parts of it, with the seriousness required by this situation for the implementation of the international decisions issued to this effect, especially Resolution 425.

These contacts resulted in all these sides' support for the committee's efforts and their positive response to the committee's requests at the security and political levels.

These are the principal foundations set up by the committee in order to implement the Casablanca summit resolution, and those were the endeavors it exerted in order to implement its plan. However, despite the committee's persistent efforts to do everything possible at the Lebanese, Arab, and international levels to achieve these aims, the committee records with deep distress its inability to reach its goal. The committee expresses its deep sadness, and its denunciation of the security deterioration that has occurred on the Lebanese scene during recent days, and which has reached a level of savagery that has gone beyond the most pessimistic expectations. The committee asks God to have mercy on the souls of the innocent who fell victim to this indiscriminate bombardment. It condemns the violence that has destroyed vast parts of Beirut and other Lebanese regions, and has led most of the inhabitants of the Lebanese capital to emigrate. The committee can only consider that these developments are aimed at the peaceful Lebanese citizen, and at the mission the committee is endeavoring to carry out. For all of these reasons, the committee regrettably considers that its mission is at a dead end at the security and political levels. It will submit a comprehensive and detailed report to the leaders of sisterly Arab countries in order to once again see what can be done to help Lebanon recover from its ordeal.
[Signed] The Higher Arab Tripartite Committee:
His Excellency Abdellatif Filali, foreign minister of the Kingdom of Morocco
His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
His Excellency Dr Boualem Bessaieh, foreign minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

Palestinian Affairs

PNC Official Calls on Israel To Release 'Ubayd

NC3107105489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0950 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 31 Jul (MENA)—Muhammad Subayh, secretary general of the Palestine National Council [PNC], has condemned Israel's abduction of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, one of the leading members of Hizballah in south Lebanon. He said that this action by the Israeli army on the clear orders of the Israeli Government leadership is an organized act of terrorism carried out by a state whose voice is always raised in condemning the terrorism of others.

In a statement to MENA, Subayh said that Israel, a UN member, claims it is against terrorism but gives itself the right to commit aggression on others, infringe on the sovereignty of the surrounding countries, kill innocent people, and kidnap persons, including men of religion.

The PNC secretary general added that the abudction of Shaykh 'Ubayd and his two aides is a disgraceful act which will escalate the grave and deteriorating situation in south Lebanon and will also induce other extremist parties to retaliate. He stressed that no one can control these small groups. Subayh called on the Israeli authorities to release Shaykh 'Ubayd and his companions immediately in order to safeguard the lives of foreign hostages abducted in Lebanon. He also called on it to leave the issue of releasing the foreign hostages to the various diplomatic and humanitarian channels instead of kidnapping others

Yasir 'Arafat Reportedly Granted U.S. Entry Visa

JN3107113689 Amman Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] The Kuwaiti daily AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM said the U.S. Administration decided to grant the PLO leader, Mr Yasir 'Arafat, an entry visa to the United States to address United Nations General Assembly next month. The daily said the U.S. decision is a step toward advancing peace process in the Middle East.

On the other hand, AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM newspaper quoted U.S. sources as saying that the American State Department had relayed to the Israeli Government a draft proposal by the PLO for holding elections in the occupied Arab territories.

PLO Executive Committee Ends Meetings

JN3107114289 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1117 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Jul (WAKH)—The PLO Executive Committee concluded its meetings in Baghdad this morning. During these meetings, the PLO Executive Committee discussed the recent developments in the occupied Arab territory and the Arab moves on the Arab and international levels. Reliable Palestinian sources told a WAKH correspondent in Baghdad that the PLO Executive Committee, under the chairmanship of Yasir 'Arafat, discussed the developments in the occupied territory and adopted a number of decisions and measures aimed at escalating the popular intifadah [uprising] in the occupied territory and confronting the bestial practices carried out by the Zionist occupation forces.

The decisions also deal with plans to move on the international level to convene the international conference to resolve the Palestine question.

Iraqi President Saddam Husayn last night met with the chairman and members of the PLO Executive Committee and discussed with them the recent developments in the Palestine question, as well as the situation in the occupied Arab territory and Lebanon.

The reliable Palestinian source said that the PLO Executive Committee also discussed the results of the contacts and talks 'Arafat held during his recent visits to a number of Arab countries as well as the talks he held with various African presidents while in Addis Ababa.

The sources added that the PLO is expected to issue a statement later today on the results of its Baghdad meetings.

Executive Committee's Statement

JN3107193589 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1727 GMT 31 Jul 89

["Text" of statement issued by the PLO Executive Committee at the conclusion of its meeting in Baghdad on 31 July—read by announcer]

[Text] Over the period 29-31 July 1989, the PLO Executive Committee, under the chairmanship of our brother leader and president, Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], met and discussed a number of issues and topics. The situation in the occupied territories and our people's heroic, blessed intifadah [uprising] led the agenda.

The PLO Executive Committee reviewed the Israeli criminal policy against our people's sons and the campaigns of oppression and terrorism which are increasing and escalating. To face this, the Palestinian leadership adopted a number of important decisions in the international arena in order to initiate moves in world opinion, in world and UN organizations, and in other arenas.

The leadership also adopted a number of resolutions and measures to enhance our people's ability to confront the Israeli crimes and escalate our people's blessed and heroic intifadah using every means.

With deep pride, the Executive Committee hailed the great steadfastness shown by our people's masses in the occupied homeland and their unbending confrontation against the occupation's vicious onslaught. They are armed with unyielding and invincible determination to struggle, with comprehensive national unity, and with full popular support for the PLO and its leadership. The Executive Committee also praised the achievements of the intifadah and the progress it has made in all political arenas. The Executive Committee also discussed moves on the Arab and international scene.

While it put a high value on the efforts of the fraternal Arab states and the confirmation of their firm support for our Palestinian people's struggle to achieve their national independence and establish their independent Palestinian state, the Executive Committee asserts the need to increase this support and broaden its activities. In this regard, the Executive Committee reiterated its position on the need to achieve the comprehensive peace that will guarantee the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories and enable our people to fulfill their right to repatriation, self-determination, and an independent national state. The committee also asserted the need to convene an international Middle East peace conference with the participation of all sides concerned, including the PLO and the UN Security Council's five permanent members in order to guarantee security and a just peace among all sides in the region. Furthermore, it stated the need to complete preparations for the international conference in a manner that will guarantee the success of the conference.

The PLO Executive Committee draws attention to the continuing increase in Israeli terrorist policy in southern Lebanon against our Palestinian people's camps there and against the fraternal Lebanese people and their nationalist forces and militas. This policy encroaches daily on Lebanon's territory and sovereignty, and commits acts of kidnapping, arrest, and murder just as gangsters do.

During its meeting, the Executive Committee discussed the important and positive results of the OAU's 25th summit in Addis Ababa and the absolute support shown by the African states and presidents for the Palestinian people and their just and legitimate struggle to regain their usurped rights and occupied territories, and for the independent Palestinian state, with Jerusalem as its capital.

This noble African position was embodied in the final recommendations and resolutions of the OAU's 25th summit and in the unanimity with which the Palestinian and the Middle East resolutions were received. This African position was also embodied in the warm welcome and kindly reception which the conference gave to Brother Abu-'Ammar. This reflects the distinguished and primary position of the cause and people of Palestine in African sentiment and consciousness.

The Executive Committee then discussed the positive results of the meeting which the executive committee held with the president of fraternal Iraq, Saddam Husayn. It placed a high value on Iraq's firm support—affirmed by the Iraqi president—for the Palestinian people's struggle to achieve their just national objectives and realize their national independence under the PLO, their sole legitimate representative. The position taken by those who achieved our Arab nation's victory on the eastern flank is an important source of strength for the heroes of the stones in Palestine.

FILASTIN AL-THAWRAH on U.S. Dialogue

JN3007094089 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1843 GMT 29 Jul 89

["Text" of editorial published "in this week's issue" of FILASTIN AL-THAWRAH by Chief Editor Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman: "Strange Is the Americans' Behavior"]

[Text] The Americans see catastrophe with their own eyes, but, they still walk toward it knowing that fire is waiting for them. This has always been their case with all peoples and issues of the Third World. The Americans never knew how to walk out of a dilemma without paying a dear price.

Political scientists are puzzled when they search for the reasons that make the Americans fall into the (?catastrophe) instead of finding an honorable solution for themselves and the others.

We do not want to recall the reasons behind the U.S. involvement in Vietnam and the bitter defeat the Americans suffered because this is known by everybody and there is no need to repeat it. But, what is new—and which may lead to catastrophe—is this very strange U.S. position vis-a-vis the Palestinian people, the PLO, and the Palestinian state.

When Shultz announced the beginning of the U.S. dialogue with the PLO, he said that this dialogue does not mean recognition of the PLO nor approval of convening the international conference. He also explained that he opposes the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

In the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue, of which only three sessions were held in 7 months, we admired the U.S. ambassador's integrity, honesty, and conduct [words indistinct]. We spoke many times about the honesty and credibility of the man's words. We spared no effort to build bridges of confidence and acquaintance with the ambassador of the superpower, which has the greatest responsibility for the Palestinian tragedy.

We behaved with great responsibility toward our people's cause. We considered the dialogue to be the the beginning of the road and the beginning of the U.S. recognition of the Palestinian facts on the ground. When President Bush announced that the objective is to end the Israeli occupation, we said this is a new U.S. position, which we highly appreciate and value. When James Baker asked Israel to abandon the dreams of Greater Israel, we asserted that this constitutes a good start for a serious dialogue after we finished building the bridges of confidence and acquaintance.

However, Washington cannot bypass its history which is replete with mistakes. It is repeating now, as it did in the past, the same scenario to achieve an impossible objective. The United States does not bother to understand the opponent with which it holds dialogue. Its research center puts that opponent in the framework of its interests. It then tries to destroy it through its (?different) methods. In our case, Dennis Ross understands dialogue as the prelude to end the intifadah [uprising].

The objective is, then, not that which we and the world understood—the start of a long road in the direction of peace on the basis of international legitimacy. The direct and probably the only objective is to restore the stability which the intifadah [uprising] destroyed. Dialogue, as Washington understands it, will contribute toward the realization of that goal.

Therefore, dialogue has not achieved anything worth mentioning yet in the meaning which we and the world want because it becomes a dialogue of the deaf. This is because the U.S. cards are exposed by the Palestinian side and it is not easy to swallow the U.S. bait.

Therefore, the dialogue continued to go around in circles because Palestinian flexibility has its limit. It is a flexibility that serves the objective of establishing the independent state. Under no circumstances can this flexibility be led into any detours under the temptation of continuing the dialogue, which we wanted to employ against the Israeli enemy. We succeeded in this, but this objective, which we achieved through the dialogue, has a time limit that it cannot exceed.

Hence, our eyes remained directed toward the main objective of the dialogue. Thus, we brushed aside its secondary objectives after their purposes had been exhausted. Has the time really come to prompt us to say that the Americans have misunderstood us? It seems now that this is the case, as the Americans are putting all their weight behind the Shamir plan from A to Z. They carried this plan to us, coupled with some U.S. remarks saying that this plan is incomplete and that it has to be completed so that it can be accepted by the Americans. However, it is a qualitative turn moving Shamir's positon from intransigence and rejectionism to a position that enabled him to advance a settlement plan based on the holding of elections, the Americans added. We voiced our opinion that the elections issue cannot be separated and isolated from the political process. We asked the Americans: What about the Israeli withdrawal? Does Shamir's government accept international resolutions and an international conference? What about the cancerous settlements which are on the increase in the occupied Palestinian territories? We posed numerous questions to the Americans on their concept of the political national rights of the Palestinian people and also on the right to self-determination and the independent state.

The American side has not provided a single answer to any of these questions, which if left unanswered, will render talk about elections mere political bickering. Amidst this atmosphere, (Herbert) stated that so long as he stays with this administration, neither he nor other

U.S. officials will meet with Yasir 'Arafat. This is, in fact, the height of insolence, and has surfaced on time to expose how the team responsible for U.S. decisionmaking thinks.

Despite this insolent statement, no U.S. explanation or public apology for it has been made by the U.S. Administration spokespersons. They might think they need not apologize for a stand even if this stand were mistaken. They are officials of a superpower which does not know how to establish relations with the overwhelming majority of the Third World states.

As for John Kelly, the new U.S. assistant secretary of state, he unmasked the real face of the U.S. policy in the speech which he specifically delivered to convince U.S. representatives of his political efficiency. He has chosen to decide by himself, in line with what the Shamir government wants, that the dialogue must be held between the Israelis and the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Besides, he believes that progress in this dialogue will help resolve big differences between Israel and the Arab states. Mr Kelly does not envisage the establishment of a Palestinian state—that is, the state of Palestine as a result of this dialogue. No, he believes that this dialogue will resolve the Arab-Israeli problems.

As for Shamir's plan, Kelly says that the Israeli elections plan is a serious effort to which the Americans subscribe wholeheartedly. According to Kelly, this initiative deserves a positive and serious response from the Palestinians and the Arab states.

Let us hear what Kelly said on the dialogue with the PLO and compare this with what he said on the Shamir plan. Kelly says: Our dialogue with the PLO is not an end in itself. He adds: During the official and unofficial meetings, we prompted the PLO to confer an operative meaning on the commitments which it undertook to honor in December. Besides, we are attempting to urge the PLO to pursue moderate positions vis-a-vis the peace process and to create situations in which the Israeli Government's initiative can be implemented. We are not attempting to mediate between Israel and the PLO. We want to make sure that the PLO is ready to play a responsible role in the peace process.

So, the dialogue with the PLO seeks to prompt the PLO to accept the elections plan. It does not seek to achieve any other objective. Kelly subscribes wholeheartedly to the Shamir plan. However, he assumes the position of the teacher who feels that he is dutybound to teach the PLO how to walk the path of peace as understood by the Americans.

The crowning touch in this regard was made by James Baker, whose position has been undermined and weakened after the Likud Central Committee meeting when he ambiguously referred to the international conference. Baker said that Shamir's government adheres to the elections plan. Therefore, he does not see any need to send a delegation to examine the extent of the government's commitment to the elections plan after this government succumbed and accepted Sharon's four conditions.

As a matter of fact, these conditions were voiced by Sharon. However, Shamir himself publicly announced his adherence to these conditions in a speech delivered in the Likud Central Committee meeting. Furthermore, he added new conditions to the ones demanded by Sharon.

The issue is more than clear. Shamir's plan is exactly and one hundred percent a U.S. plan that has an Israeli name. The same thing goes for Israel itself which is a U.S. state that has a Jewish name.

Hence, the Americans do not view the dialogue with the PLO as a change in policy, but as a change in tactics designed to achieve the same objective. The Americans have found that the Israeli repression is incapable of eliminating the intifadah. Therefore, they began to pursue a new tactic—that is, the dialogue with foggy promises which might, according to only their perspective, confuse our minds and heads and benumb our nerves so that we can be led into ending our intifadah.

It is clear that the launching of the U.S. dialogue with us was accompanied by a large-scale escalation in the Israeli repression. Every time a meeting is held between us and the United States, the government of Shamir and Rabin begins to carry out a new military campaign designed to quell the intifadah. The dialogue, according to how it is viewed by the Americans, is another effective and useful method for eliminating the intifadah through using this dialogue to benumb the nerves of the leadership and prompt it to ask the people to reduce violence. Thus, the leadership would be benumbed into asking the people to abandon their use of Molotov cocktails, firebombs, and burning tires. Thus, the U.S. Administration would restore the lost stability without giving anything worth mentioning to the Palestinians, without bringing about the withdrawal of a single Israeli soldier, and also without allowing the Palestinian people to achieve their objectives of freedom and independence.

As a matter of fact, and we say it publicly, the Americans have misunderstood us, just as they previously misunderstood the Vietnamese people. The PLO does not view the dialogue as a means for bargaining over the head of the intifadah. We have told the Americans that the intifadah is not listed on the agenda and that it is not negotiable. Hence, the three dialogue sessions held have not achieved any tangible objective. Nay, they continued to revolve in a vicious circle as if these sessions were a dialogue held among deaf people, despite the fact that each side knows about the ideas and opinions of the other side and that each side has an in-depth knowledge about the objectives of the other side.

We know that the objective of the Americans right now is to kill the intifadah and not to recognize it or the objectives that it seeks to achieve. We also know that the Americans heed nothing other than the strength which stands in their way. If there is a way to alarm the Americans regarding the harm that will be inflicted on them if they proceed in this policy, [it must be used] and harm must be inflicted on them so that they would reconsider their policies.

Fortunately, the intifadah is not for bargaining; and this reflects the awareness of our people, revolution, and leadership. Besides, it is too strong to be crushed by the Israeli military repression. It is being rooted and entrenched. Thus, the calm, security, and stability desired by Washington so that it can protect its numerous interests in the Middle East are not being restored. The Americans are proceeding to hell on their feet and with their eyes and minds open. However, they are proceeding to hell fast behind Sharon, Shamir, and Rabin. There is no use in the advice being offered by the sincere Arabs to the American friends. Let us affirm for the thousandth time that the concession demanded of us regarding the independent state which we have accepted, will not be the first concession which the Americans believe the illusory dialogue will produce. The Americans believe that this and other concessions are dictated by the need to see the PLO accept the unchangeable reality. We, the Palestinians, do not think that way. The last thing that bothers us is the hugeness of the material strength at the disposal of both Israel and the United States. Had this been the case, we would have neither launched the revolution nor initiated the intifadah in the face of the Israeli bullets.

Our acceptance of an independent state on a part of our historical homeland, the homeland of our fathers and forefathers, was prompted by our perspective as regards the international situation and the limits of our capabilities at the current time and circumstances and in view of the current balances of power, no more and no less. We have won over a camp of friends whose number increase, whereas our enemy has lost and loses friends daily. Also, this is required so that we can win over throughout the conflict forces in our favor—forces that would finally tip the balance in favor of our people's interests.

The Americans are realistic regarding their own interests. As for the interests of other peoples, these must serve American interests, even if this were to be secured through the use of force. Therefore, the clash is inevitable and there is no other way to bring about a drastic change in U.S. thinking.

Egypt

Foreign Ministry Condemns Killing of Higgins

NC3107220089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2130 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 31 Jul (MENA)—Egypt has denounced the execution of U.S. Officer Richard Higgins. The Foreign Ministry has issued a statement, emphasizing that Egypt, which condemned the abduction of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and his two companions by regular Israeli military units inside an independent sovereign state, equally condemns the execution of U.S. Officer Richard Higgins, who was in Lebanon as part of the UN Forces in order to help establish security and stability in Lebanon in implementation of the will of the international community.

The statement adds that Egypt expresses its support for the statement issued by the Security Council today, unanimously condemning acts of abduction and the holding of hostages. It also appeals to all the parties concerned, whether regional or international, to exercise extreme self-restraint and to make every possible effort to reach a peaceful settlement to the Lebanese crisis and create stability in the region.

Mubarak To Visit Mauritania, Senegal To Mediate

NC3107164089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1135 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 31 Jul (MENA)—MENA has learned that President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, in his capacity as OAU chairman, will visit both Mauritania and Senegal in late September.

The visit comes as a quick response on his excellency's part to the request by the recent African summit meeting that he continue his mediation efforts between the two fraternal countries to resolve their dispute on the basis of OAU principles.

MENA has also learned that the Egyptian mediation committee which will leave Cairo on 6 August, will be led by Ambassador 'Aziz Sayf-al-Nasr, assistant to the foreign minister. The committee will visit both Senegal and Mauritania and will present President Mubarak with a full report on its mission before his excellency begins his visits to the two countries.

'Meaningful' U.S. Response to Shamir Urged

JN3107164089 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 30 Jul 89 p 5

[Editorial: "We Urge Washington To Explain This Position"]

[Text] Any flicker of hope that may have been held out for Shamir's purported elections proposal in the occupied Palestinian territory has been snuffed out by his odd statements when he met with Israeli rabbis. Arrogantly and shamelessly, he told them peace with the Arabs is possible without even a token Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza. He even went so far as to declare that Jewish settlement on the occupied Arab land will be stepped up.

Shamir's statement seems to be a reaction to George Bush's reported call to Shamir to renounce the dream of Greater Israel and cease building settlements in the occupied land as impediments to the peace process. The Israeli prime minister was in effect defying the sole major power that backs him and shields him against an international wave of anger and condemnation by vetoing resolutions passed by the international community denouncing Israel's savagery against the people of the occupied Palestinian land.

We will not ask for an explanation of these brazenly provocative statements from the Likud bloc leader—utterances that seek, first and foremost, to wreck any attempt to bring peace to the Middle East. However, we call on the Americans, who keep repeating that they are partners in the peace process, to give a meaningful response to Shamir's occasional irresponsible statements in which the prime minister maintians that he is capable of making peace with the Arabs while at the same time retaining Israeli military occupation of the Palestinian land—a mirage that he will have to pant after for a long time before he sees it for what it is.

Foreign Minister Regrets Deterioration in Lebanon

NC3007131489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1140 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 30 Jul (MENA)—Egypt today expressed its deep regret over the continued and deliberate escalation of the military confrontation in Beirut. This came in a statement made by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. He said that thousands of innocent Lebanese, both Christians and Muslims, are paying the price of this confrontation. He stated that Egypt reasserts its absolute support and active backing for the higher Arab tripartite committee in its genuine and sincere efforts to find a settlement of the Lebanese crisis.

'Abd-al-Majid declared that Egypt exhorts all the parties concerned in Lebanon to refrain from stepping up the military confrontation and to take action to calm the situation down so that the Arab tripartite committee may fulfill the task assigned to it by the emergency Arab summit held in Casablanca in May.

MENA has learned that 'Abd-al-Majid received a message today from Marwan al-Qasim, Jordanian deputy prime minister and foreign minister. The message, which concerned the deterioration of the security situation in Beirut, formed part of the coordination and consultation among the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] member

states. This message came after the completion of the talks on the Lebanese crisis that the ACC foreign ministers held at their meetings in Amman on 20 and 21 May.

Minister Comments on Loans for Tourism Projects

JN3107101089 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 29 Jul 89 p 1

[Text] It has been agreed that Egypt will receive loans of $600 million—$200 million from the World Bank, $200 million from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, and $200 million from some friendly countries—to build three [as published] new tourist cities in the Gulf of Aqaba, the Red Sea, Luxor, and Aswan. Fu'ad Sultan, minister of tourism and civil aviation, said these sums will be spent on establishing the infrastructure of these projects and preparing them to attract Arab and foreign investors to embark on the establishment of these touristic sites. The Negev Airport will be equipped to receive planes next year.

Sudan

Internal Peace Negotiation Plans Reported

EA2807111089 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 2145 GMT 27 Jul 89

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolutionary Command Council, declared in a news conference this morning that negotiations between the Sudanese Government and Garang's movement would begin in the first week of next month in Addis Ababa.

He said the Addis summit had given Sudan an opportunity to explain its internal and foreign objectives and its desire to achieve peace through negotiations. Also the Sudanese delegation's meetings with African leaders had settled eternally that which had (?inflamed) Sudan's relations with African states (?during) the former regime.

Al-Bashir Says No More Political Parties

EA3107215489 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, leader of the National Salvation Revolution, returned to the homeland at 1630 today after paying an official 3-day visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, during which he held talks with the servant of the two holy places, King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz in an atmosphere of friendship, understanding, and brotherhood. The two reviewed relations between the two countries and ways of strengthening and developing them, as well as discussing the affairs of the Arab and Muslim nations.

During a news conference he granted yesterday afternoon at the Red Palace in Jeddah, Lt Gen 'Umar al-Bashir stressed that his meeting with the servant of the two holy places had been friendly and expressive of the depth of the brotherhood and appreciation harbored by King Fahd towards Sudan. Lt Gen 'Umar said that the position adopted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was appreciated and respected by Sudanese. He referred to the assistance provided by the Kingdom to contain last year's disasters, which constituted 80 percent of the sums provided by the whole [words indistinct]. This indicated that the concerned officials in the Kingdom understood our problems and responded to our needs in times of trouble.

He said that if the assistance provided by the Kingdom had been properly administered, Sudan would have been in a different state in terms of economic stability from the one inherited. The leader of the revolution said the early recognition of the salvation revolution on the part of the Kingdom and the Republic of Egypt had been influential in persuading the world to adopt a positive attitude toward the revolution. Lt Gen 'Umar referred to the Kingdom's pioneering role in the field of Arab solidarity, stressing the efforts of the servant of the two holy places towards solving the problem of Lebanon.

His excellency went on to say that Sudan had numerous problems. All aspects of life were in a deteriorated state, which means that the process of rebuilding would take a long time and entail great efforts on the part of the Sudanese Government and the Arab brothers, could support Sudan. He stressed the revolution's determination to restore Sudan to its former natural and central position in bringing the Arab world and Africa together.

Replying to a question on an item carried by one of the international newspapers on an attempt to reconcile with the former politicians and bring back the parties, his excellency said: We tried out the party system and had 33 years of inter-party strife following independence, from which we gained nothing. He stressed: There will be no return for the parties.

He said: We shall not deal with anyone on the basis of his party affiliation. We harbor no personal enmity toward any individual and any dealings [words indistinct] will be conducted in the framework of Sudan's interests. [passage omitted]

RCC's 3d Decree on Government System, Powers

NC2907194989 Cairo MENA in Aabic 0902 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Text] Khartoum, 29 Jul (MENA)—The Revolution Command Council [RCC] has issued its third constitutional decree concerning government bodies and their powers.

The decree states that the State Council is to act as the highest constitutional authority in Sudan. It will decide on acts of sovereignty and assume the high command of the national armed forces and other regular forces.

The State Council is also invested with the power to accept the credentials of foreign ambassadors and diplomatic envoys, confirm death sentences, grant general amnesties, commute or cancel punishment for any person, declare a state of war, declare a state of emergency over the entire country or part of it, supervise the office of the general auditor and appoint him, supervise the legal branch and appoint the Higher Judiciary Council, and supervise the Public Prosecutor's Office and appoint the public prosecutor and his deputy.

The decree also states that the RCC is the legislative authority in Sudan. The council will have the power to issue legislation, ratify the public budget, draft government policies, supervise the cabinet and call it to account, dismiss any minister from his post or accept his resignation, ratify agreements and treaties, establish ministries and define their functions, and appoint special investigating committees.

According to the decree, the cabinet is to take charge of the executive responsiblities in the country. The cabinet is to be composed of the prime minister and the ministers, who together represent executive authority in the country.

According to the decree, the cabinet is collectively responsible before the RCC for the executive and administrative work of the government. The decree defines the functions of the cabinet as including the performance of all executive and administrative government functions and the signing of international treaties and agreements.

The decree states that the Council of Ministers will submit the draft state budget to the RCC 1 month before the end of the fiscal year. It further states that if the new budget is not approved before the beginning of the new fiscal year the old budget will remain in force until the new one is approved.

The decree permits the Council of Ministers to submit to the RCC a bill for additional fiscal appropriations if it transpires that the sum approved by the RCC is not sufficient for the current year's requirements or when the need arises to appropriate funds for new tasks or duties that have not been included in the budget.

Within the scope of general regulations, the decree states that the chairman and members of the State Council and the ministers will not be permitted to practice a profession or enter into any commecial enterprise either directly or indirectly.

The decree also states that the posts of State Council chairman, State Council members, and ministers will become vacant in the event of the holder's death, loss of eligibility, conviction for immoral crimes or fraud, the council's acceptance of his resignation, his dismissal by the council, or medically certified insanity.

The decree states that the measures and deliberations of the State Council and Council of Ministers will be secret and every State Council member and minister is required not to make them known outside the meeting hall. The decree also states that it is not permissible to litigate against acts of sovereignty and that courts of law are not empowered to hear cases disputing such acts of sovereignty either directly or indirectly.

The decree also states that in the event any law should conflict with the provisions of this decree, the provisions of this decree will prevail to the extent necessary to eliminate the conflict.

Council Says Cooperation With Libya To Continue
EA3107194389 Khartoum SUNA in English 1010 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Khartoum, 31 Jul (SUNA)—Member of the NSRCC [National Salvation Revolutionary Command Council] and chairman of the economic committee, Col Salah al-Din Muhammad al-Karrar, reaffirmed that cooperation between Sudan and Libya will continue according to the programs agreed upon before, particularly the Sudanese Libya Holding Co. This came during yesterday's meeting between Col Karrar and a Libyan journalists' delegation currently visiting Sudan. During the meeting, Col Karrar reaffirmed that the revolution is working on solving the economic crisis in Sudan.

Saudi Arabia Agrees To Lift Ban on Relief Funds
EA3007220089 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolutionary Command Council, has said that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has agreed to lift the ban on the Saudi relief funds to the victims of the rains and floods, after guarantees were given to the effect that the funds would be turned over to those deserving them.

The Kingdom had put a ban on the funds, collected through the initiative of the custodian of the two holy places, following a dispute between the Ummah Party and the Democratic Unionist Party over the disposal of the funds.

It is worth mentioning that the sum collected now stands at 267 million Saudi riyals, which excludes funds collected by some organizations for the same purpose, which have not yet been handed over.

Airlines Given 1 Week To Sell Foreign Exchange
EA3007221989 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Statement from the National Salvation Revolutionary Command Council (NSRCC)]

[Text] The economic committee has noted that some of the airline companies registered and operating in Sudan: Sudan Airways; al-Najm al-Dhahabi [Golden Star] Company; Nile Safari Company; Sudan Air Services Company, SASCO; and other companies operating in the

field of air-freighting and air transport have been receiving funds for their services in foreign exchange but not selling the foreign exchange to the Bank of Sudan. This constitutes an offense under foreign exchange ordinances and reduces government revenue.

Accordingly, the economic committee orders the companies mentioned and any other companies to sell their previous income from foreign currencies to the Bank of Sudan within 1 week from the date of this notice. Otherwise, the offending companies will be tried before the special military courts.

[Signed] The NSRCC Committee

Four Foreign Currency Traders Sentenced 29 Jul

EA3007201589 Khartoum SUNA in French 1510 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] Khartoum, 30 Jul (SUNA)—The Khartoum special military tribunal, chaired by Colonel Bashir Sulayman, on Saturday [29 July] sentenced one defendant to 20 years in jail, another to 10 years, and acquitted a third. The tribunal sent another defendant to juvenile court and confiscated the money found on the four individuals: 12,000; 983,000; 640 Sudanese pounds; and 550 travelers' checks [as received], respectively.

The four foreign currency traders were arrested in Khartoum during a recent campaign against foreign currency trading.

Regional Political Supervisors Appointed

EA1807170289 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 2145 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] The National Salvation Revolution Command Council has issued a decree appointing the following as political supervisors in the regions:

1. Staff Brigadier 'Uthman Ahmad Hasan—Northern Region
2. Staff Brigadier al-Tijani Adem al-Tahir—Darfur Region
3. Staff Brigadier Dominic Kassiano—Equatoria Region
4. Staff Brigadier Pio Yokwan—Upper Nile Region
5. Staff Brigadier Sulayman Muhammad Sulayman—Central Region
6. Colonel Martin Malwal Arap—Bahr al-Ghazal Region
7. Staff Colonel Mohammad al-Amin Khalifah—Eastern Region
8. Air Force Colonel Faysal Madani—Kurdufan Region.

The political supervisors shall assume their responsibilities immediately.

Kurdufan Special Court Head, Members Sworn In

EA1907083389 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Excerpts] The chairman and members of the special court of al-Ubayyid today took the oath before Staff Brigadier Ma'mun Hasan al-Nur Siwar al-Dhahab, the acting military governor of Kurdufan Region. The swearing-in ceremony was attended by Mr Mahdi Qasim Bashir, acting head of the judiciary in Kurdufan Region. [passage omitted]

The chairman of the court will be Colonel Adam Ahmad Adam, and its members Legal Major Hakim Mahmud Sabir and (?Major Muda Salih Daf'allah).

Special Court Established in Bahr al-Ghazal

EA1907105689 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] The governor of Bahr al-Ghazal Region, Staff Major General Awadallah Muhammad al-Fatih, has issued a decree setting up a special court to be chaired by Staff Major Mirghani Sulayman al-Bashir with the membership of Major 'Abd-al-'Aziz Muhammad Bilal, Police Captain Ibrahim (Manduwak) and Mr (?Benjamin Ban), deputy magistrate, to investigate issues of political and economic security, in addition to violations of emergency regulations and the trial of offenders. The governor has also issued an order setting up committees composed of civil servants and directors of the Regional Ministry of Finance to study the problems of inflation and submit a relevant report to the regional government.

Jalal 'Ali Lutfi Appointed Chief Justice

EA2907202189 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1502 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Text] The National Salvation Revolutionary Command Council [NSRCC] chairman Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir today issued a decree appointing Mr Jalal 'Ali Lutfi as chief justice on the basis of Article (?4) of constitutional decree number 3 of 1989 and in application of Article 22 of the Judiciary Authority Law.

Kuwait

Dailies Blame Israel for Higgins' Death

LD0108095989 Kuwait KUNA in English 0757 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 1 (KUNA)—Two local dailies Tuesday blamed Israel for creating a crisis by kidnapping one of the Lebanese religious leaders and called on the United States to practice self-restraints when dealing with such an issue.

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM newspaper said that when it kidnapped 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, Israel "was planning for an extensive aggression against Lebanon", noting that such action by Israel is "opening the door of hell".

The paper went on that when Israel kidnapped 'Ubayd, it knows that the groups loyal to this religious figure will not be silent and will kill the hostages.

Yesterday's developments following reports that American hostage William Higgins, who was held captive in Lebanon, was killed affirms that Israel had intentionally created the crisis "to launch a new war in the region starting from the south (of Lebanon)," AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM said.

The daily expressed belief that the United States knows about the Israeli plans "although it pretends that it does not know and is neutral."

Meanwhile, English-language daily KUWAIT TIMES hoped that American President George Bush would be "cool" when dealing with the situation created by Israel when it kidnapped 'Ubayd and which consequently led to the killing of the American hostage.

The paper said that Bush "should thank no one but Israel for creating a crisis... following its kidnap adventure in South Lebanon".

The paper warned the U.S. against launching any military action against Lebanon in retaliation for the reported killing of Higgins, asking "what did the U.S. achieve when its battleships shelled Lebanese coasts indiscriminately under Reagan's order?"

The daily reminded that the American operation then was "a complete fiasco".

The paper said if Bush wants to promote the Middle East peace process "he would have to stop Israel from assuming the sole regional policeman".

The Kuwaiti paper affirmed that Israel is the sole party responsible for creating a crisis that threatens the lives of all hostages in Lebanon.

"If Higgins has really been hanged, then Israel certainly pulled the rope that tightened around his neck", the daily asserted.

Al-Kharafi on State Budget, Economic Affairs

JN3107163589 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 30 Jul 89 p 3

[By Hamad al-Sa'id]

[Excerpts] Finance and Planning Minister Jasim al-Kharafi expects a tangible drop in the state budget deficit, and said this will appear in the closing account of the state. He added that the drop is a result of the cooperation demonstrated by all state organizations in rationalizing the state's general expenditure and also as a result of reports on a possible improvement in oil prices on the world market.

In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM, Minister al-Kharafi said that the state budget decicit figures are estimates and that they constitute the allowed maximum difference between the state's revenues and general expenditures. The actual deficit may also drop as in last year's budget in the closing account of the financial year ending 31 June 1989.

Al-Kharafi added that this is caused by two factors: The first is related to an increase in revenues and the second is related to a decrease in expenditures.

We also hope that we and the state organizations will use public money in the best way to obtain the best revenues.

Regarding the revenues from Kuwait's investments, Minister al-Kharafi said that the reserve law bans the inclusion of these revenues in the budget's revenues. Under this law, these revenues are to be added to the state's general reserve. The investment revenues cannot be added to the state's general revenues unless the reserve law is amended. The revenues should be added to the reserve for future generations.

The minister added that the state's reserves are subject to fluctuations in the assets' value on the market and that the aim of preserving the reserve is to increase it for future generations.

The minister also said that withdrawal from the reserve will not remedy the problem of the budget deficit, because the state's reserve is limited and will end if we depend on it without decreasing our expenditures. He also affirmed that the state will decrease the expenditures in light of the revenues and that the state and the citizens will be responsible for that.

Regarding the state's plan to reduce the ministries' budgets, Al-Kharafi said that most state organizations responded positively to the general plan to rationalize expenditure and prevent dissipation of public money.

He also said: We are still making great efforts to use public money in the best way and that these efforts should be coordinated. [passage omitted]

Al-Kharafi also stressed stability in the exchange rate of the Kuwaiti dinar against world currencies, adding that this is due to the fact that our currency is covered by a basket of currencies, which are being monitored every day. [passage omitted]

Visiting Gambian President, Amir Discuss Ties

LD3007135989 Kuwait KUNA in English 1007 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] Kuwait, July 30 (KUNA)—Visiting President of Gambia Dawda Jawara and the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah Sunday [30 July] held talks on Afro-Arab relations and issues of mutual concern. The talks also centered on bilateral relations and means of developing them in various fields.

The Amir will host a dinner banquet tonight in honor of President Jawara and the accompanying delegation.

The president of Gambia arrived here Saturday on a three-day official visit.

Qatar

Paper Attacks U.S. 'Double Talk' on Mideast

JN3107161589 Manama WAKH in English 1540 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Manama, Jul 31 (GNA)—[Passage omitted] Qatari newspaper 'AL-'ARAB' commented in an editorial under the title "Double Talk" on the U.S. stance concerning the Middle East Issues.

AL-'ARAB criticised the U.S. position on the Middle East noting that the American Administration says one thing to the Arab and plans something else.

The paper pointed to the U.S. President George Bush's criticism on the abduction of Lebanese leader Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and said these statements were for the record only since the U.S. asked Israel for the results of the investigation with Shaykh 'Ubayd which meant support of the abduction operation and an attempt to benefit from it.

The paper said the U.S.-PLO dialogue was part of this context which seemed to be in the interest of the U.S. and part of its efforts to gain the confidence of the Arabs while its real intentions were full support of Israel.

AL-'ARAB rejected the U.S. double-face stances on Arab issues and called for tangible efforts to find just solutions for these causes. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Al-Bashir Discusses Bilateral Relations

LD2907133889 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1228 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Riyadh/Mecca 29 July (SPA)—His Excellency the chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council for National Salvation, General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, has described his visit to the Kingdom, which began today—Saturday—as important.

He said: "The Kingdom has a special place in the hearts of Sudanese, and relations between the two sisterly countries were founded in the era of His Majesty King 'Abd-al-'Aziz, may God rest his soul, and have developed and flourished after him under the guidance of his sons." In this respect, he praised the role of the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, in developing these relations.

In an interview with the newspaper AL-JAZIRAH published today, Gen 'Umar al-Bashir pointed out that during his visit, he will discuss the development of relations between the two countries to the benefit of the mutual interests of the Sudanese and Saudi peoples.

He also praised the role of the Kingdom in helping the Arab and Islamic peoples generally, and its great support of Sudan in particular. In this respect, he pointed to the assistance given by the Kingdom during the floods and torrential rain which afflicted Sudan. He said: "it exceeded the total given by the remainder of the world."

His excellency the chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council for National Salvation, Gen 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, reiterated his country's condemnation of the explosions which took place in holy Mecca during this year's pilgrimage. He said: "The terrorizing of the pilgrims in the holy house of God is a crime and an insult to Islam." His excellency added: "Those who committed these acts are as far away as can be from Islam; they are terrorists and enemies of Islam and Muslims." He said that the attempt to upset the peace and security of the pilgrims is an unforgivable crime. [passage omitted]

In a statement to the newspaper AL-NADWAH published today, he pointed out that the purpose of his visit to the Kingdom is to thank the custodian of the two holy mosques and the government and people of the Kingdom for their support of Sudan. He stressed that there is now solidarity in the Sudanese arena, and that positive steps have been taken towards peace.

Departs Al-Madinah 31 Jul

LD3107174689 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Lieutenant General [rank as heard] 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council for National Salvation, and his accompanying delegation, left al-Madinah this afternoon at the end of a 3-day official visit to the Kingdom. [passage omitted]

Jordan's King Husayn Arrives in Jeddah

LD3107201089 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1643 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 31 Jul, (SPA)—His Majesty King Husayn Ibn-Talal, King of the Hashimite Kingdom of Jordan, arrived in Jeddah at 1930 today on a visit to the Kingdom [of Saudi Arabia].

The servant of the two holy places, King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, welcomed him at King 'Abd-al-'Aziz International Airport. He was also welcomed by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general. [passage omitted]

The delegation accompanying His Majesty King Husayn during his visit to the Kingdom includes Prime Minister Zayd Ibn-Shakir; Dhawqan al-Hindawi, head of the royal court; 'Adnan Abu-Awdah, political adviser to King Husayn; Marwan al-Qasim, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Nasir al-Batayinah, Jordanian ambassador to the Kingdom.

Meets With King Fahd

JN0108064089 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Jeddah—Talks began last night in Al-Hamra' Palace in Jeddah between His Majesty King Husayn and his brother the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz. The two monarchs discussed the various aspects of the latest developments in the Arab situation and the firm brotherly relations between both countries. [passage omitted]

Prince Sultan Receives PDRY Prime Minister

LD3107135289 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Excerpts] His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector-general, met with His Excellency Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, chairman of the Council of Ministers and member of the Politburo in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. The meeting took place at the Palace of Conferences in Jeddah at noon today. [passage omitted]

Following the meeting, His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz made a statement to SPA in which he noted that the meeting took place in a brotherly atmosphere during which opinions and points of view were exchanged. His royal highness confirmed that there was agreement on everything that serves Islamic and Arab issues, to the benefit of the two countries.

Youth Official Denies Baseball Game With Israel

LD2807201089 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1920 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] Riyadh 28 Jul (SPA)—A responsible source at the general chairmanship of youth care has said that there is no truth to media reports that a Saudi sports team, whose members are aged between 11 to 12 years, has played baseball games with teams from other states including Israel.

The source added: In Saudi Arabia there is not any sports team of this age group currently in West Germany. Furthermore, no Saudi player plays this game because it does not figure among games played by Saudi teams.

United Arab Emirates

Diplomatic Relations Established With Romania

JN0108083889 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0730 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 1 Aug (WAKH)—The governments of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and Romania have decided to establish diplomatic relations on the ambassadorial level as of today, 1 August 1989.

A statement issued in the capitals of the two countries pointed out that this step is based on a joint desire to promote the relations of friendship and cooperation between the UAE and Romania.

Petroleum Minister on 'Stability' in Oil Market

JN3107065389 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1910 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 30 Jul (WAKH)—Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, minister of petroleum and natural resources in the United Arab Emirates [UAE], has said that there is now stability in the oil market in the wake of the recent OPEC meeting. He added that the price of oil now is between $15 and $17 per barrel. In a statement to UAE television, Dr al-'Utaybah said that the oil market, not OPEC, is now the side that defines the price of oil. The production quotas defined for the producing countries should be respected, he said.

The UAE minister noted that OPEC members respect the production quotas defined for them. He added that this is a sign that the oil market is moving toward stability and improvement. Despite this, he said, OPEC members must take climatic conditions into consideration—summer and winter—the type of order in each season, and speculations in the oil market. He affirmed the need to abide by the OPEC production ceiling, expressing his optimism that the price of oil will reach $18 per barrel or exceed it, God willing.

Dr al-'Utaybah noted that the OPEC follow-up committee's meeting in Paris in September will give new momentum to the recent meeting and reinforce confidence in the oil market. Consequently, the UAE minister said, oil prices will improve. The non-OPEC countries should contribute to the OPEC efforts to maintain price stability at $18 because market stability will improve the performance of the world economy, God willing.

Jordanian Official on Results of ACC Talks

JN3107110389 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 31 Jul 89 p 6

[Text] Amman (PETRA)—Ministers of Industry and Trade from the founding states of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC)—Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen—Sunday stressed the need for achieving industrial integration among the ACC member states, through the formation of an information bank to collect, compile and analyse information on the industrial sector and unify industrial terms.

At the conclusion of their meetings in Baghdad, the ministers decided to form a specialised technical committee to coordinate and unify standards and specifications of industrial products.

The committee will also be in charge of organising the exchange of specialised expertise, research and transfer of technology, in addition to encouraging the establishment of specialised companies and offices responsible for preparing feasibility studies for industrial projects.

The ministers called for speeding up work on connecting the four countries' electric grids, and setting up a liaison office at the ministries of industry in the four countries to follow up on the implementation of the adopted directives and resolutions and to form specialised technical committees.

The Jordanian delegation to the meetings was headed by Minister of Industry and Trade Ziyad 'Innab, and included the ministry's secretary general Muhammad al-Saqqaf.

In an arrival statement al-Saqqaf said that the ACC ministers of industry and trade emphasised the need for adopting practical formulas that ensure the highest degrees of coordination among the four countries, upon importing or exporting their products to each other or abroad.

Al-Saqqaf pointed out that the ministers adopted a number of recommendations, designed to achieve the maximum degree of coordination and cooperation upon importing or exporting basic and strategic commodities, such as wheat, grains, rice, milk, meat, etc.

One of the recommendations called on the working group, emanating from the meetings, to prepare the necessary studies on importation of basic and strategic commodities, al-Saqqaf said.

He added that the ministers have decíded to form working groups, grouping specialized representatives from the four Arab countries to study issues pertaining to providing protection for the items exchanged by the four countries, and to set up a mechanism whereby payment resulting from commercial exchange will be settled.

They also called for drawing up a unified customs tariff and to standardise the service wages collected on the various vehicles.

Turkey's Batu Denies Receiving Protest Note

TA2707163989 Ankara ANATOLIA in Turkish 1535 GMT 27 Jul 89

[Text] Ankara (AA)—The reports to the effect that Iraq delivered a protest note to Turkey because certain pro-Iranian groups attacked it from Turkish territory have been denied.

Asked by ANATOLIA to comment on a statement made by Iraqi Ambassador Tariq 'Abd-al-Jabbar Jawad, Foreign Ministry spokesman Inal Batu confirmed that Iraqi authorities did make such allegations. He said: "The relevant authorities in this country looked into these allegations and determined that such an incident did not take place. The Iraqi authorities have been informed of these findings. The reports to the effect that Iraq gave a protest note to Turkey are not true."

The Iraqi ambassador told a newspaper that a pro-Iranian separatist group attacked Iraq from Turkish territory about 3 months ago.

Immediate POW Exchange With Iran Urged

JN2907115689 Baghdad INA in English 1110 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, July 29, INA—Iraq has renewed readiness to put an end to the sufferings of prisoners of war (POWS) in both Iraq and Iran and concern of their families by starting immediately a full and comprehensive exchange of POWS and return them to their homelands in application of Geneva agreement.

A memorandum sent by Iraqi Foreign Ministry to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) appealed to the United Nations and world community to exercise pressure on Iran to cease its dealing with this human issue in a tricky manner with the object of utilizing POWS as a political card.

The Iraqi Foreign Ministry memorandum referred to a memorandum sent by the Iranian Foreign Ministry to the ICRC on 10th July 1989 saying that the Iranian memorandum contained falsifications which the Iranian regime resorted to and reflected the course of the Iranian regime in misguiding the Iranian and world public opinion.

It said that the Iranian memorandum claimed that Iraq kidnapped Iranian civilians and held them as captives while those Iranians in fact were refugees who fled the hell of the Iranian regime and sought refuge in Iraq voluntarily are living in Iraq with full respect, offered to them all facilities and are free to return to their homeland or immigrate to the country they choose. [sentence as received]

The Iraqi memorandum added that the Iranian Foreign Ministry memorandum alleged that Iranian POWS were exposed to inhuman treatment. The ICRC through its mission in Baghdad, it pointed out, carries out regular, free and periodic visits to the camps of Iranian POWS in Iraq without any obstacle and is well aware of the human treatment they are receiving at those camps. Iraq is committed to human international laws including the Geneva agreement concerning treatment of POWS while Iranian authorities, on the contrary, do not allow the ICRC to visit Iraqi POWS or meeting them only in the presence of representatives of the Iranian authorities. This matter deprives the Red Cross from getting acquainted with their real sufferings and disasterous conditions.

The memorandum stressed that Iraqi POWS were exposed to various psychological and intellectual pressures and torture to affect their allegiance to their homeland and changing their political and religious doctrines.

The Iraqi memorandum referred to the former president of the ICRC statement in describing the tragic condition of Iraqi POWS in Iran following the killing of scores of Iraqi POWS in Gorgan camp in which he said that Iraqi POWS in Iran have two choices either treason or death.

The United Nations fact-finding mission on conditions of POWS in both Iraq and Iran which visited the two countries in August 1988 confirmed these facts.

The Iraqi memorandum added that the Iranians claim that Iraq resorts to a policy of concealing Iranian POWS and preventing mission of the ICRC from reaching and registering them while they cooperate with the ICRC to register the highest percentage of Iraqi POWS in Iran. This allegation, it pointed out, is full of lies and falsifications as the ICRC quite well knows the main reason of its being not able to register all POWS in the Iraqi-Iranian conflict until now and knows that the Iranian regime was and still rejects registering all POWS.

The Iraqi memorandum said that Iraq was forced to adopt a decision of not informing the names of a number of Iranian POWS in a bid to press on the Iranian side and force it to register more than 30,000 Iraqi who are still not register by the Red Cross.

The memorandum referred to the meeting held in November 1988 between Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, deputy premier and foreign minister and president of the ICRC during the second round of the Iraq-Iran negotiations when Mr. 'Aziz submitted full lists of the names of all Iranian POWS who were not informed to the Red Cross.

During the meeting, the minister expressed Iraq's immediate readiness to hand over those lists soon after the Iranian side adopts a similar step and informs the names of all Iraqi POWS in Iran.

The Iranian side, as the ICRC knows, rejected that. Iraq is still ready to fully informed the names of unregistered POWS on reciprocal basis.

The memorandum added that the Iranian proposal in its memorandum to the ICRC of making Iraq increase the number of registered Iranian POWS with the Red Cross which means that Iraq only informs names of all unregistered POWS to the number compatible with that of Iraqi POWS registered with the Red Cross in Iran as a proposal implying playing on this matter and aims after eliminating international pressure on the necessity of an immediate exchange of POWS between the two sides. [sentence as received]

The question of registering and informing about POWS is obligatory to both parties under Geneva Agreement and therefore informing about them all without exception by the two sides is necessary since bargaining on the number of POWS is unacceptable and indicates a desire of blackmail and bargaining on human souls. The important thing is an exchange of all remaining names with the two sides to ensure their return to their homelands at one time and without keeping anyone of them as hostages.

The Iraqi memorandum said that effective hostilities were stopped and it was high time for a comprehensive exchange of POWS in accordance with Article 118 of Third Geneva Agreement for the year 1949 concerning POWS.

It said that informing about the remaining full names with the two sides to the ICRC could be done urgently and immediately by the two sides during the process of comrehensive exchange of POWS or before it directly and therefore we appeal to the ICRC, the United Nations and world community to exercise pressure on Iran to stop dealing with this human issue in a tricky manner with the object of using POWS as a political card.

UN Envoy Affirms Adherence to Resolution 598

JN2807133089 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] 'Ismat Kittanah, Iraq's permament representative to the United Nations, has said that Iraq affirms anew its desire to continue the process of direct negotiations under the auspices of UN Secretary General Xavier Perez de Cuellar.

In a message to the UN secretary general following a statement by the Iranian Foreign Ministry dated 17 July, Mr 'Ismat Kittanah clarified that Resolution No. 598 is the peace plan. The two sides should discuss the peace plan with all its elements under the auspices of the secretary general. The current presence on the ground of the military forces of both sides as a result of the situation that prevailed when implementation of the cease-fire began is one of the issues under discussion.

He said: It is impossible to understand the position of the Iranian side in isolating this or that issue from the progress of peace talks. It is a confirmation of its known, selective approach.

He added: What strengthens doubts is that the Iranian side wants to realize partial steps to blackmail and threaten peace and stability in the region. He affirmed that the elements of the peace process are interlinked so that one cannot be dealt with in isolation from the others because the military forces' presence on the ground is linked to many issues on which an understanding should be reached within the framework of the joint understanding of peace existing between the two countries stipulated by Security Council Resolution No. 598.

Daily on Iranian Policy After Khomeyni's Death

JN1807111089 Baghdad INA in English 0930 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, July 18, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily of Baghdad said that claims on presence of a change in the Iranian policy after Khomeyni's death were mere illusions that are not linked with the state of affairs in Iran.

The Iraqi daily, commenting on a new report published by MID NEWS on the arrival of a new American mediator in Tehran shortly after Khomeyni's death to negotiate a political deal, said that Iran utilizes opportunities and enters into compromises with what it terms as "the grand Satan" to achieve evil objectives.

It said that the Iranian side proposed to the American mediator a deal based on the United States' release of "frozen Iranian funds" in the United States in return for releasing hostages held in Beirut.

It affirmed that it was no surprise that Hashemi-Rafsanjani receives the American mediator for he had previously received McFarlan eand the Zionist Nimrodi and Kamji [names as received] in Tehran, ate the cake and received the satanic gift.

Planning Minister on Economic Progress

JN2807140489 Baghdad INA in English 1300 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, July 28, INA—Iraqi Planning Minister, Dr. Samai Majid Faraj said that the Iraqi economy had achieved since the July 1968 revolution a clear and remarkable progress in economic and social fields despite the exceptional circumstances witnessed by Iraq due to the Iranian aggression.

In a statement to INA here today, the minister said that the economic policies and development programs which were planned and supervised by President Saddam Husayn had realized remarkable results and giant steps in the process of progress and development in Iraq. He added that this fact can be realized through reviewing the figures in economic and social fields throughout the period of 1968-1988.

Concerning the national income and gross products, the minister said that the national income was only 813 million Iraqi dinars in 1968 and it increased to 14704 million Iraqi dinars in 1988 thus realizing an annual growth rate of 15.6 percent. The national income per capita was 91 dinars in 1968 and mounted to 852 dinars in 1988 with a growth rate of 11.8 percent annually throughout that period.

The minister said that the gross domestic product (GDP) was 1035 million dinars in 1968 and increased to 17898 million dinars in 1988 achieving an annual growth rate of 15.3 percent.

The minister said that the socialist sector had participated at a rate of 24.5 percent in the GDP in 1968 and this rate increased to 58.3 percent in 1988.

Concerning the consuming expenditure, the minister said that the government consuming expenditure amounted to 220 million dinars in 1968 and it increased to 7646 million dinars in 1988 thus realizing an annual growth rate of 19.4 percent during this period.

As for the family consuming expenditure, the minister said that it was 515 million dinars in 1968 and increased to 9923 million dinars in 1987 realizing an annual growth rate of 16.8 percent.

Concerning the economic and social activities development, the minister of planning gave the following development indications.

As for agriculture, forestry and hunting, he said that the GDP in these fields was 168 million dinars in 1968 and increased to 2791 million dinars in 1988 achieving an annual growth rate of 15.1 percent.

He said that between 1968 and 1988, the area of the plantation lands have increased from 12.1 million donums to 12.3 million donums. He added that the value of the agriculture product had realized a big increase from 201 million dinars to 3452 million dinars and the loans granted to farmers had increased from 1.7 million dinars to 15.1 million dinars.

The minister said that the area of the reclaimed lands had been 2,273,000 donums up to the end of 1988.

As for agricultural machines, the minister said that the number of tractors and pumps had increased from (7404, 11612, 1662) to (40915, 45929 and 3032) [punctuation, figures as received] respectively during this period.

The development also reflected in the vegetables and livestock production as the vegetables production increased from 1.6 million tonnes in 1968 to 2.5 million tonnes in 1988. He said that white meat production increased from 43.6 thousand tonnes to 199 thousand tonnes and the production of broil [as received] eggs increased from 210 million eggs to 1274 million eggs.

The minister said that the number of agricultural and irrigation projects had increased considerably as poultry farms was 5920 farms in 1988 after it had been 19 farms in 1968. He said that (10787) thousand donums of agricultural land were distributed among the farmers and 197,000 farmers benefitted from that up to 1988.

Concerning transformational industry, the minister said that the gross domestic product of the transformational industry was 95 million dinars in 1968 and it mounted to 2073 million dinars in 1988 with an annual growth rate of 16.7 percent during that period.

Industrial production had increased more than 15 times as it had increased from 164 million dinars in 1968 to 1791 million dinars in 1988.

He added that 25 industrial towns and areas were established in the country. The minister added that work opportunities increased from 133,000 to 225,000 and the large, medium and small industrial establishments had increased from 28008 to 41368 establishments with an increase of 13360 industrial establishment.

As for electricity and water supplies, the minister said that the GDP of this activity had mounted to 10.5 million dinars in 1968 and it had increased to 343 million dinars in 1988 with an annual growth rate of 19 percent.

Electric power, he said, had increased from 1.3 to 25.5 billion kw-p/h between the years 1968 and 1988. He said that 92 percent of the entire residential units in the country receive electricity services. He added that 84 percent of the rural areas received electric power.

Concerning building and construction, the minister of planning said that the GDP in this field was 37 million dinars in 1968 and it increased to 1062 million dinars in 1988 realizing an annual gross rate of 18.3 percent.

He said residential buildings of the private sector had increased from 15388 residential units to 40640 residential units achieving an increase of 164 percent.

Drinking water production, the minister said, had increased by 1318 million cubic meters [CU/M]. He said that it was 288 million CU/M in 1968 and it became 1606 million CU/M in 1988.

As for transport, communications and storing, the minister said that the GDP of this activity had been 66 million dinars in 1968 and it amounted to 1291 million dinars in 1988 with an annual growth rate of 16 percent during this period.

The capacity of the ports platforms increased from 1.9 million tonnes to 13.8 million tonnes achieving a six time increase between the years 1968-1988.

Concerning health services the minister said that the number of hospitals in 1988 was 256 hospitals after it had been only 149 in 1968 achieving an increase of 72 percent. As for the beds, he said that they had increased considerably from 16327 beds to 28891.

He said that the number of doctors in the hospitals and other health units had increased from 1574 to 8737 doctors and the number of pharmacists had increased from 178 to 1513 while the dentists' number increased from 185 to 1575.

Concerning education the minister of planning said that the number of schools had increased from 6152 to 11358 schools of all stages and the capacity of schools increased from 1.3 million students to 4.2 million students with an increase rate to 223 percent between the years 1968-1988.

He said that the capacity of higher education increased from 31086 student to 179458 students during the same period.

As for the living standards the minister said that the Iraqi individual had realised considerable increases in his living standards as the monthly spending of the individual had increased at a rate of 713 percent between the years 1971-1972 and 1988.

New Kurdish Daily Licensed To Publish

JN2007134489 Baghdad INA in English 1320 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] Baghdad, July 20, INA—The first issue of the Kurdish-language Soran-Dialect "NASO" newspaper is to appear here on Saturday, it was reported today.

Iraq's Information and Culture Ministry has licensed Kurdish journalist and poet 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Talbani to issue NASO, meaning the horizon.

Editor-in-Chief al-Talbani has said the daily, with 12 pages, will contribute to widening the circle of information, developing Kurdish culture and countering suspicious ideological trends "which serve imperialistic purposes and intentions."He added that the daily, public and political, would exercise constructive and objective criticism, which would make available the opportunity to enrich democracy and progress in Iraq. It will also broaden the information scope of the language, as it communicates [with] the Kurdish people, he said.

It is to be mentioned that there is a number of Kurdish-language dailies and periodicals in Iraq, such as HAWKARI and BZAF.

The Information and Culture Ministry is expected to grant further licenses after the declaration fo a new press and publications law.

Second Kurdish Daily Planned

JN3107163489 Baghdad INA in English 1350 GMT 31 Jul

[Text] Baghdad, July 31, INA—A new Kurdish daily AL-BAZZAQ which means determination, will be issued next week.

The new daily is the second issued in Kurdish language following ASSO [name as received] daily issued at the beginning of this month and the third Kurdish daily in Iraq.

Dr. Nafi' 'Arawi, owner of the concession of the daily would take into consideration the selection of Kurdish cultural works and would be open to all good contributors to enrich the Kurdish cultural life in particular and Iraqi in general.

It is worth mentioning that AL-IRAQ daily is one of the known dailies in Iraq that expressed Kurdish viewpoints and supervised by a number of Kurdish intellectual politicians.

'Ubayd Admits Complicity in Higgins Kidnapping

TA3107202689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] just now said that during his interrogation in Israel, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd has admitted his personal involvement in planning, guiding, and assisting the following terrorist activities: the kidnapping of IDF soldiers Yosef Fink and Rahamim Alshekh in Lebanon in February 1986, the perpetration of terrorist attacks against IDF forces, and the kidnapping of U.S. Marine Colonel Higgins and his transfer to Beirut. 'Ubayd also admitted hiding Higgins' abductors in his house in Jibshit.

In response to a question, the IDF spokesman said that Shaykh 'Ubayd has provided the names of the kidnappers, other details regarding terrorist operations perpetrated by Hizballah, and information on the group's ties to Iran.

The IDF spokesman added that the interrogation of Shaykh 'Ubayd is continuing.

UN Forces: Video of Higgins Death Inconclusive

TA0108152789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] The UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] headquarters examined the original cassette the organization called the Oppressed of the Earth sent to the Beirut newspaper AL-NAHAR.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the figure shown in the videocassette was identified as Colonel Higgins, but UNIFIL headquarters stressed that the videocassette contains no evidence of his death because it does not contain any camera angle showing Higgin's entire body hanging. The UNIFIL headquarters stress that Col Higgins will not be officially declared dead until his body is identified. His body has not been found so far despite the Shiite organization's claims.

Rabin Said To Believe Hostages Already Dead

TA0108103289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Excerpts] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Chief of Staff Dan Shomron met this morning with the U.S. ambassador to Israel, William Brown, at the Knesset. David Ze'ev reports:

As more deadlines near, the high-level contacts are continuing between American and Israeli officials. Amid an air of crisis and secrecy, U.S. Ambassador William Brown arrived at the Knesset as Defense Minister Rabin and Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shomron were attending a committee session on the defense budget. [passage omitted]

The meeting of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee was called in the last minute and lasted only about 15 or 20 minutes. There was no usual briefing for reporters, but the defense minister is said to have told committee members he believes that threats are being made against people who were killed some time ago. One committee member told me afterward there were absolutely no second thoughts about last week's operation in Lebanon. The situation, he said, dictated such an action.

'Special' Ministry Team To Deal With Crisis

TA0108120189 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1130 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has set up a special emergency team to deal with the hostage crisis. The Foreign Ministry spokesman announced at his daily briefing to foreign correspondents that Israel would not release Shaykh 'Ubayd in response to pressure or extortionist threats, but that the proposal for an exchange of prisoners remains in force. Yaron Kulas in Jerusalem has more details:

Almost 3 days after the crisis began, the Foreign Ministry has set up a special emergency team to deal with the hostage crisis. The team is headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. Its members include Foreign Ministry Director General Re'uven Merhav; Yitzhaq Li'or and Moshe Raviv, the deputy directors general for the Middle East and information; Salay Meridor, the foreign minister's political adviser; and Foreign Ministry spokesman Dr Alon Li'el. The team will convene hourly or at any time it deems necessary. It will follow political and information developments in the world, analyze reactions coming from Lebanon and the Arab world, and study world reactions toward Israel's proposal for a prisoner exchange.

In his daily briefing to foreign correspondents, the Foreign Ministry spokesman answered a question by saying Israel will not release Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd under pressure or extortion. Nevertheless, the proposal presented yesterday by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin for an exchange of prisoners remains in force.

The Foreign Ministry today also began to respond to the criticism in the United States to Shaykh 'Ubayd's abduction. An official announcement said that the abduction was implemented only after diplomatic and political efforts to release our soldiers failed. The Government of Israel calls on the American people not to permit terror to drive a wedge between the two countries. Israel recalls that the Hizballah organization has already murdered 300 Americans and 70 French civilians and that Shaykh 'Ubayd himself was involved in the kidnapping of Colonel William Higgins.

Rabin Proposes Prisoner Exchange With Shiites
TA3107132489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1247 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Announcement by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin at the Dan Hotel in Tel Aviv "a few minutes ago"—recorded]

[Text] Israel is once again calling for the release of the Israeli prisoners and other hostages held by the Shiite organizations in Lebanon. Israel proposes an exchange of prisoners, detainees, and hostages. According to this proposal, all the Israeli prisoners and the foreign hostages being held by the Shiite organizations would be exchanged for all the Shiite detainees held by Israel, including Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, Jawad Kaspi, and others. The exchange would be conducted through the International Red Cross according to the procedures customary in these cases.

I would like to clarify the meaning of the Israeli statement. In the framework of the fight against terror, when it comes to Israeli prisoners Israel has acted and will continue to act in two ways: When the possibility exists for a rescue through a military operation—namely, to bring the prisoners back home—we proceed that way and that is the way we prefer. That is what we did in the Entebbe operation. At the same time, to realize this goal and in view of our responsibility, in particular toward IDF [Israeli Defense Forces] soldiers who were sent to war in Lebanon and have been missing since or have fallen prisoner to the Shiite organization, we are also prepared to conduct negotiations to swap them and bring them back home in exchange for the Shiites who are being held by us or have been apprehended by us.

Our decision to make this comprehensive proposal—which also includes the hostages of other countries, if so desired, of course, stems from the fact that foreign hostages are also in jeopardy in the wake of Israel's actions.

Shamir: No Comment on Swap; Arens on Threats
TA0108134389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said he cannot yet comment on developments in the contacts with those holding the hostages and our prisoners because we are in the midst of the issue, which is in its initial stage. In response to a question by our correspondent Menahem Friedman on whether there is any thought of transferring Shaykh 'Ubayd to the Americans, the prime minister said he cannot discuss future moves, but only talk about what we have already done.

The ASSOCIATED PRESS correspondent in Jerusalem quotes the prime minister as saying that there are ongoing contacts with various sources to bring about the release of the hostages. Avi Pazner, Mr Shamir's spokesman, said these are indirect contacts under the auspices of the International Red Cross and the U.S. Administration. He refused to say whether there were direct talks with the Shiites.

Israel will not release Shaykh 'Ubayd while there is still hope it will be able to exchange prisoners with the various organizations in Lebanon, Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said in a meeting today with foreign correspondents. He asserted: If we release the criminal 'Ubayd we will only be encouraging further terrorism. The foreign minister added that if Hizballah has killed Colonel Higgins then Shaykh 'Ubayd is responsible. On the threats to kill two other hostages, Minister Arens said that Israel does not believe the announcements of an organization which has lied many times in the past.

Shamir on 'Common Interest' With U.S. in Lebanon
TA0108094589 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said today that even though there were some reactions hostile to Israel following the operation in which Shaykh 'Ubayd was abducted—reactions which he cannot understand—people all over the world understand why the abduction was necessary.

[Begin Shamir recording] The purpose of the operation was to release our POW's, MIA's, and hostages. This was the sole purpose of the operation. If, at the same time, we also succeed in helping to bring about the release of other hostages, we will be extremely happy. In fact, here we share a common goal and common interests with other countries whose citizens are held hostage by Lebanon, and this applies in particular to the United States. Here we share a goal and are fighting on the same front as the United States. [end recording]

Our correspondent Yaron Toren adds that the prime minister said that contacts are continuing and that the Cabinet's offer of releasing all the Shiite captives in exchange for all the Israeli soldiers held by that organization is still valid.

The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee this morning heard a brief report by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin on developments related to the kidnapping affair in Lebanon. At the defense minister's request, no debate was held on the matter.

Prior to that, the defense minister and the chief of staff held a meeting with U.S. Ambassador William Brown. Ambassador Brown left the meeting with a somber countenance and refused to divulge any details on the content of the meeting or the criticism voiced against Israel following the killing of Colonel Higgins.

Ministry 'Welcomes' Bush Call To End Violence

TA0108102989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Reacting to Senator Dole's criticism of Israel, Prime Minister Shamir has said that we understand the U.S. concerns, but we have our own worries, too. The prime minister said that Israel is in constant contact with the United States on the matter. He believes that by and large, the world public sympathizes with our goal of releasing hostages held by terrorist groups in contravention of all human laws.

About an hour ago, the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem called on the American people not to permit Hizballah's criminal terrorism to drive a wedge between Israel and the United States. Our political correspondent reports that the Foreign Ministry's communique also says that the democratic world must stand united in a joint struggle against terrorism. If we fail in this matter, we will be granting terrorism an easy victory and might consequently suffer additional innocent victims. Israel welcomes U.S. President George Bush's call for an end to the cycle of violence. In this spirit, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday offered an exchange of the hostages of various nationalities for the Shiite hostages held by Israel. The Foreign Ministry says that the offer still stands.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1000 GMT on 1 August adds that "the ministry points out that American civilians have been murdered in the past in terrorist acts which have no connection with Israel. Israel is concerned for the safety of all the hostages in Lebanon, the ministry said, and called for their immediate release. All Israel's efforts to obtain the release of the Israeli hostages held by Hizballah have been rejected, and this is why Shaykh 'Ubayd has been apprehended. Shaykh 'Ubayd has planned and directed a number of terrorist acts, the ministry said, including the kidnapping of Colonel Higgins. Israel shares the concern of President Bush, the Congress, and the American people for Col Higgins' fate, the ministry added." The report later adds that "Prime Minister Shamir this morning refused to say whether Israel would consider releasing the Hizballah leader in response to pressure from the United States or other Western countries."]

Arens 'Not Concerned' by Bush Statement

TA0108045889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens by moderator Shalom Qital and political correspondent Arye Golan—live]

[Text] [Qital] Good morning, Foreign Minister Arens.

[Arens] Good morning.

[Qital] Did Hizballah's announcement yesterday regarding Colonel Higgins surprise you?

[Arens] Look, we have learned the hard way that these are not only madmen, but also liars. It is therefore difficult to accord any credibility to announcements made by Hizballah, whether it goes by this or any other name.

[Golan] But even though we desperately and sincerely want to release our men held by Hizballah, are we not getting embroiled in a murky affair, with Hizballah already threatening to execute another two foreign hostages today? Perhaps they have already killed Col Higgins, if he was not murdered many months ago.

[Arens] Look, the fight against these terrorists is itself the murky business. We have no way of assessing whether the people they are talking about are still alive. We do not know whether Higgins was assassinated earlier or only now. We have no idea whether they would not have nevertheless gone ahead and killed the men they are holding, even had someone released one of the men we are holding captive. We do know one thing, however, and that is that it is not good to give in to this lunacy and madness.

[Golan] Even the United States has begun issuing criticism. Democratic majority leader Robert Dole, considered a friend of Israel...

[Qital, interrupting] You mean the Republican majority leader.

[Golan] The democratic minority leader, of course.

[Qital] Yes, the minority.

[Golan] Well, Dole, considered a friend of Israel, severely criticized us yesterday.

[Arens] Look, I am not surprised. People are under pressure, and that is true for people in Israel, too, of course. At the same time, it is of supreme importance to keep a cool head and act sensibly, because this war against terrorism is everyone's war. We are all involved in it and want to win it and not surrender to these terrorists.

[Qital] Mr Arens, just a few minutes prior to this newscast, the White House and President George Bush came out with a statement. The President called on all the parties in the Middle East to release the hostages they are holding captive. This is also directed at us. Do you regard this statement as something grave or as one that is in concert with our policy?

[Arens] We do not need to talk with U.S. Administration indirectly, through hints. We maintain close contacts with it. Therefore, there is no need to guess what the intention behind the remarks is.

[Qital] At any rate, such a statement was issued. Do you welcome it, or are you concerned?

[Arens] I am not concerned. As you know, we announced our readiness to carry out a deal as part of which all the hostages and kidnapped individuals would be exchanged.

[Golan] Do you still believe that these people who cannot be trusted, these liars, are trustworthy enough to conduct a deal with?

[Arens] Look, it is extremely difficult to tell in advance wherever these people are involved. What is, however, apparently true is that Shaykh 'Ubayd, whom we hold captive, is important to them.

[Qital] Thank you very much, Minister Arens.

Jerusalem Arabic on Prisoner Exchange Offer

JN3107210789 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1435 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Defense Minister Rabin issued a statement this afternoon stating that Israel reiterates its calls to release all the Israeli prisoners and the foreign hostages held captive in the hands of the Shiite organizations in Lebanon, and that Israel proposes the exchange of these prisoners and hostages with all the Shiite detainees whom it has, including Shaykh 'Abd al-Karim 'Ubayd, (Jawad Qasfi), and others. Rabin said that Israel proposes that the exchange take place through the International Committee of the Red Cross in accordance with the procedures adopted in such cases. The defense minister said that his statement is being issued while the fate of U.S. Col Higgins is not yet clear and that he hopes that the U.S. colonel is still alive.

Arens on Higgins Execution, Prisoner Exchange

TA3107165589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1622 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said this evening that Israel has no confirmation that Colonel Higgins has been hanged by Hizballah. Here is a report by our political correspondent Arye Golan:

At this point, when there is still no confirmation of the reports by news agencies that Higgins has been hanged due to Israel's abduction of Shaykh 'Ubayd, Jerusalem rejects the possibility that if the reports are true, relations between Israel and the United States might be affected. If at all, officials in Jerusalem say, the U.S. colonel might have been executed many months ago.

In any event, Foreign Ministry officials told us this evening that Israel and the United States stand united in this affair in the face of terror and Hizballah. The affair of the abduction, the ultimatum, and a possible prisoner exchange is being handled by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. It goes without saying that his announcement this afternoon about Israel's willingness to exchange prisoners with Hizballah had been approved by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and following several telephone consultations held today by the forum of four: the prime minister, the defense minister, Vice Prime Minister Peres, and Foreign Minister Moshe Arens.

[Begin recording] [Golan] Mr Foreign Minister, do you or your senior colleagues have any confirmation of the reports that Col Higgins has indeed been executed?

[Arens] We do not have any confirmation. We received the report from news agencies. We know that we are dealing with what we consider lunatics. They are notorious for not telling the truth, and that is why at this point we cannot say whether the news agencies' report is true or false.

[Golan] Did the discussions preceding the abduction of Shaykh 'Ubayd take into account the possibility that those lunatics, as you call them, may present us with such an ultimatum?

[Arens] Unfortunately, we have known this demented group for many years. That is why all the decisions were made based on our knowledge of this body.

[Golan] A few hours ago Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin proposed a prisoner exchange with Hizballah. Until when will we await a response from the other side?

[Arens] In the face of reports that have not yet been confirmed, I think today is too early to set a deadline. We will simply have to see how things work out. In principle, our willingness to swap the prisoners held in Israel for the people they have kidnapped is still in effect.

[Golan] Thank you very much. [end recording]

Netanyahu: Exchange Proposal Still Pending

TA3107145989 Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew 1405 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by Avi Bettelheim—live]

[Text] [Bettelheim] Does Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's announcement about a wish to conduct negotiations come in the wake of a Cabinet decision? Is there a majority in the Cabinet in favor of such negotiations, or do some of the ministers object?

[Netanyahu] I think that the Cabinet or those Cabinet members responsible for this decision were the prime minister and the ministers involved in the matter, of course. I do not think there is room for question here.

[Bettelheim] Has contact already been established with the Oppressed of the Earth organization?

[Netanyahu] You could say that the proposal is now hanging in midair. We have raised a proposal to exchange prisoners. We want our three prisoners back, and we also demand the release of the foreign hostages being held by Hizballah. The proposal is still valid, and we are awaiting a response.

[Bettelheim] How many prisoners or detainees is Israel prepared to release in this deal?

[Netanyahu] We are talking about a quite significant number of prisoners being held here, but we are still awaiting a response. Let us first hear the initial response to this proposal.

[Bettelheim] Mr Netanyahu, are negotiations with a terror organization which has perpetrated crimes and murdered people acceptable to you?

[Netanyahu] You know, this is not a case of blackmail on their part; it is not that they have caught somebody and are saying: Let the people go, or else we will do this and that. They did that in the past, and we refused to capitulate to them.

The situation here is different. We are faced with a state that is actually not a state, with an organization that can be influenced through all sorts of pressures. Here we are now, with this operation and this proposal which I think stands a certain chance of being successful. I think that in the war against blackmail and terror, when the opposite side is not a state, one must occasionally resort to nonconventional means. This is one of them.

[Bettelheim] Who do you speak to in such an organization, Mr Deputy Foreign Minister? Is there anybody to speak to?

[Netanyahu] There is definitely somebody to speak to. This organization has a clear hierarchy and there are also countries that support it. I must say that we regard Hizballah headquarters and the countries supporting Hizballah responsible for the safety of our prisoners and of the hostages.

[Bettelheim] Will the negotiations be conducted by the Americans, or has anybody else expressed its willingness to mediate?

[Netanyahu] I do not want to talk about mediators at this point. You know, there are channels through which to send responses, and there is no need to go into that in a television program.

[Bettelheim] Mr Netanyahu, there was sharp criticism in the past in the wake of the deal in which Israeli prisoners were exchanged for over 1,000 terrorists held in Israel. Are you not anxious that a similar deal might again stir public criticism?

[Netanyahu] I think this is a different issue altogether. First, there is no element of a breakthrough here; it is not they who are pressuring us. This is a different case. We actually initiated a certain operation, whose chief target was the man who definitely perpetrated or organized these actions. I think that in this case a practical result is feasible—first of all, because the point of departure is different; and second, because I believe this is a category of people that is different from the people involved in the deal you mentioned.

[Bettelheim] Mr Netanyahu, thank you for coming to our studio.

W. Bank Junior High Schools To Open 2 Aug

TA0108084889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Major General 'Amram Mitzna', the commander of the Central Command, has announced that studies in Judaea and Samaria junior high schools will resume tomorrow. This will affect 100 schools and approximately 70,000 students. Maj Gen Mitzna' told the Knesset Education Committee members during a tour of schools in the Ramallah area that in the next few days the defense establishment will consider reopening the 10th and 11th grades as well. He added that in the past few days, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has released 97 high school students who had been arraigned for participating in disturbances. They were released in order to allow them to go back to school.

2 Killed, Many Wounded in 31 Jul Incidents

TA3107162389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Two Arab youths were killed today in riots in the territories. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that a 12-year-old boy from the Balatah refugee camp near Nabulus was shot to death this afternoon after he threw a brick at a Border Police patrol and injured an officer. An initial report by official military sources notes that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is looking into the circumstances of the incident. The IDF took the boy's body to the military government building in Nabulus, and the security forces imposed a curfew on the camp.

A 15-year-old boy was killed at noon by soldiers' gunfire as riots were being dispersed in the al-Burayj refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. The IDF spokesman reported that the circumstances of his death are being investigated. He noted that two locals were wounded by soldiers' gunfire in various incidents in the Gaza Strip. The body of the boy, Mahmud Yasin Muhammad Faraj, was snatched from al-Shifa' Hospital and buried. The security forces imposed a curfew on the refugee camp. Inhabitants of the camp said that another five locals had been wounded during disturbances.

Nine other people were wounded today in clashes with IDF soldiers in Rafah, Khan Yunus, and the Gaza area. The IDF spokesman reported that relative quiet prevailed today in the Gaza Strip, and that many laborers reported to work in Israel; business proceeded in an orderly manner.

King Husayn Leaves for Talks With Saudi King

JN3107142189 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn left Amman this afternoon for the the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on a short working visit during which he will meet with his brother, the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, and discuss the latest developments in the Arab and international arenas and bilateral relations between the two fraternal countries.

His majesty was seen off at the airport by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent; a number of the Hashemite family members; ranking military and civilian state officials; and the Saudi ambassador in Amman.

His majesty is accompanied by Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, his majesty's political adviser, and the deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Al-Majali Denies Arms Supply to Lebanese Factions

JN3107161189 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1520 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Amman, 31 Jul (INA)—Jordan has denied that it contributed to supplying weapons to any of the sides to the conflict in Lebanon.

Jordanian Information Minister Nasuh al-Majali today told the accredited Arab and foreign reporters in Amman that Jordan will not support any Lebanese party against the other and that it is interested in the formation of a single Lebanese Government that will achieve the full sovereignty of the legitimate Lebanese Government over the whole of Lebanon's territory.

He also said that Jordan adheres to the resolutions adopted by the recent extraordinary Arab summit conference in Casablanca on the Lebanese crisis.

The Jordanian minister renewed his country's support and backing for the efforts of the tripartite Arab committee entrusted with solving the Lebanese crisis. He emphasized Jordan's interest in bolstering Arab solidarity to face current developments in the Arab arena and described Jordan's relations with Arab states as excellent. The minister also renewed Jordan's support for the PLO to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

During the meeting, the Jordanian minister reviewed the economic situations in Jordan, accused the Zionist entity of tampering with the Jordanian economy, and said that "Israel" sought to bring great harm to the Jordanian dinar.

The Jordanian minister pointed out that his country is subjected to U.S. pressures, which are represented in blocking Jordan's purchase of its weapons needs.

Al-Majali on Israeli Attempt To Harm Economy

JN3107181289 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1715 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Excerpts] King Husayn of Jordan left for Saudi Arabia today on a working visit during which he will hold talks with Saudi King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz on the current Arab state of affairs and bilateral relations. [passage omitted]

On the level of bilateral relations, the two monarchs will discuss the difficult economic and financial state of affairs Jordan is experiencing in addition to the confrontation of the Israeli schemes to undermine confidence in the Jordanian dinar and national economy.

Within this context, Jordanian Information Minister Nasuh al-Majali has affirmed the existence of Israeli attempts to weaken the Jordanian economy by bringing Jordanian currency into the country from the West Bank for illegal speculation. Al-Majali pointed out that investigations are being conducted of persons suspected of being involved in this conspiracy. On the other hand, Al-Majali said that legislative elections will be held in mid-November since King Husayn has approved the decree on holding elections.

Information Minister's News Conference Noted

JN3107181989 Amman Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] The information minister, Mr Nasuh al-Majali, met today with correspondents of news agencies and Arab and foreign newspapers. During the meeting, general topics and measures taken by the government to correct the economic process and preparations for parliamentary elections were discussed. The meeting also covered efforts carried by the government to encounter challenges and the latest developments in the region.

The meeting heralds a series of regular press meetings with correspondents of foreign and Arab newspapers in Jordan to be arranged by the Information Ministry. During these meetings, senior officials will meet with representatives of Arab and foreign press to deliberate general subjects and latest developments. The meeting was attended by director of the Jordan press agency, senior officials in the Information Ministry, and editors of local newspapers.

CBJ Allows 2 Exchange Rates on Foreign Currency

JN3107205989 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Amman—In order to achieve the Central Bank of Jordan's [CBJ] goals of maintaining the stability of the Jordanian dinar's exchange rate relative to foreign currencies, and in order to secure the provision of essential foodstuffs at reasonable prices, the CBJ has issued a memorandum to commercial banks and financial institutions. The memorandum states that the CBJ will make foreign currencies available at the officially-declared rates to import essential foodstuffs, basic raw-materials for agricultural and animal production, and medicines imported by the private sector that have no local alternative. These will also be used to cover academic expenses for students abroad.

The memorandum stressed that the CBJ will continue to provide foreign currencies at the official rate for the commodities imported by the Ministry of Supply. The CBJ allowed commercial banks and financial institutions to deal in foreign currency—selling and purchasing—in the market's supply and demand rate and in accordance with the objectives set in the instructions on foreign currency control. The CBJ stressed the need for commercial banks and financial institutions to make available foreign currencies from their own resources and not from their customers', and to accept monetary deposits for documented letters of credit and guaranteed withdrawals by the Jordanian dinar only. The CBJ will follow the developments of the exchange rate and the appropriate interventions to maintain the stability of the Jordanian currency.

CBJ Governor on Dual System

JN0108081689 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 1 Aug 89 pp 1, 15

[By Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Excerpt] Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi, governor of the Central Bank of Jordan [CBJ], has announced new CBJ measures and instructions to implement a dual price system for foreign currencies.

In an exclusive statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, Dr al-Nabulsi said the first rate, which is the official rate declared daily by the CBJ, is aimed at covering all the country's basic needs, which include essential foodstuffs and medicines. He said the same rate will be used to cover the fees of Jordanian students studying abroad.

The CBJ governor added that the other rate will be an almost controlled rate, or a parallel rate, which will be specified among banks. This rate will be used in commercial dealings that include the import of luxury and other

Replying to a question by SAWT AL-SHA'B, Al-Nabulsi said the CBJ will not allow banks to exceed the prices set by the legitimate factors of supply and demand, otherwise the CBJ will intervene. He affirmed that rates of foreign currencies in the second market should be maintained within reasonable margins.commodities which are not covered by the first rate.

On the objective sought by these measures, Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi explained that these measures and this system were adopted to fight the black market and illegitimate speculation. He said this system will have a good effect in the long run. [passage omitted]

Paper Discloses Draft 'National Pact' Principles

JN3107091289 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 31 Jul 89 p 1

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—A national pact is being drafted outlining the guidelines for an organisation aimed at consolidating the unity of the people of Jordan and broadening popular participation in the decision-making process.

A group of senior Jordanians are discussing the "national pact" principles and a new political group in the run-up to the Kingdom's parliamentary elections, expected to be held in November this year.

According to excerpts from an early six-page draft of the document carried by the Associated Press, the pact calls for toleration of different viewpoints, close Jordanian-Palestinian relations, improved living standards and better conditions for women.

Emphasising loyalty and allegiance to His Majesty King Husayn in its 11 goals and 13 articles, the pact calls for "freedom of thinking and belief and the respect of other points of view" so long as they stay within the law and do not hinder "the interest of the homeland and community." the AP reported.

According to an unidentified official quoted by the news agency, the proposed group will be called the "Organisation of National Pioneers" which will emerge shortly after "Jordanian citizens reach a consensus on the pact."

The official was quoted as saying by the AP that the pact would not be made public before November and could be modified.

In May, the King told delegations from around the country that a national pact was being prepared to increase public participation in politics and economics.

Interior Minister Salim Masa'idah, speaking to a news conference in June, gave few additional details, but said "political organisations would emerge from the pact afer its approval. The draft pact also stresses Jordan's ties to Palestinians on the West Bank more strongly than any document issued since July 1988, when the King announced his decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the occupied territory.

It said the twin peoples were "united by joint achievements, destiny, family relations and neighbourhood, a united Arab concern to defend the Arab tradition on both banks and continuous efforts to unite both banks and lift the suffering off our families in the occupied land."

Ciccipio, Waite Executions 'Postponed'

NC0108174989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1742 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] The Revolutionary Justice Organization announced a short time ago that it has postponed the execution of American hostage Joseph Ciccipio for 48 hours. The postponement will not be further extended, the organization said.

The Organization of the Oppressed on Earth earlier announced the postponement of the execution of British hostage Terry Waite until 0900 [0600 GMT] tomorrow.

Group Threatens To Execute Ciccipio

NC3107184489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1835 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] The Revolutionary Justice Organization announced this evening that it will execute U.S. hostage Joseph Ciccipio if Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd is not released by 1800 tomorrow, Tuesday. This thrat was contained in a handwritten statement in Arabic received by AL-NAHAR newspaper this evening.

[Paris AFP in English at 1825 GMT in a Beirut-datelined report states: "The kidnappers of a second U.S. hostage Joseph Ciccipio, announced Monday that they would execute him at 3 p.m. (1200 GMT) Tuesday unless Israel releases a Shiite fundamentalist Shaykh by then. The communique from the Revolutionary Justice Organization was authenticated by a photo of the 58-year-old accountant, who was abducted September 12, 1986 in Moslem West Beirut."]

Further on Threat to Ciccipio

NC3107191089 Paris AFP in English 1854 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Beirut, July 31 (AFP)—The kidnappers of a second U.S. hostage, Joseph Ciccipio, announced Monday that they would "execute" him at 6 p.m. (1500 GMT) Tuesday unless Israel releases a Shiite fundamentalist sheikh by then.

The communique from the Revolutionary Justice Organization (RJO) was authenticated by a photo of the 58-year-old American University of Beirut accountant, who was abducted September 12, 1986 in the Moslem sector of the capital.

It came a few hours after another Lebanese underground group, the Organization of the Oppressed in the World [as received], released a videotape showing the U.S. hostage Lt. Col. Richard Higgins hanged.

Both the RJO communique and the earlier videotape were delivered to the west Beirut offices of the Lebanese daily AL-NAHAR

The RJO demanded that Israel release Shaykh 'Abd-Al-Karim 'Ubayd, said to be a leader of the pro-Iranian Hizballah movement, who was abducted by Israeli commandos along with two of his bodyguards early Friday in south Lebanon.

The group, which also holds U.S. hostage Edward Austin Tracy, set a deadline of 6 p.m. local time (1500 GMT) for the release. [passage omitted]

More on RJO Communique

NC3107203289 Paris AFP in English 2001 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Beirut, July 31 (AFP)—The kidnappers of a second U.S. hostage, Joseph Ciccipio, announced Monday that they would "execute" him unless Israel releases a Shiite fundamentalist Shaykh by 6 p.m. (1500 GMT) Tuesday.

The Revolutionary Justice Organization (RJO) said that if its demand is not met by the deadline, it "will fix the date of the execution of the American-Israeli spy so that television viewers around the world can watch."

The communique was authenticated by a color snapshot Mr. Ciccipio, a 60-year-old American University of Beirut accountant who was abducted September 12, 1986 in the Moslem sector of the capital. [passage omitted]

"Israel and America chose the moment to abduct Shaykh 'Ubayd after their plans and their policy in the region (Middle East) failed," the RJO claimed in the communique.

The group called on "international courts and free men to act and intervene quickly before a dramatic deterioration in the situation, notably concerning the hostage-spies." [passage omitted]

Waite To Be Killed 1 Aug; Higgins Body 'Dumped'

NC3107183089 Paris AFP in English 1818 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Nicosia, July 31 (AFP)—British hostage Terry Waite will be executed Tuesday unless Israel releases a Shiite fundamentalist Shaykh, an anonymous caller claiming to be from a Lebanese group said Monday.

The caller to an international news agency in Nicosia said he represented "The Organization of the Oppressed in the World," [as received] which announced earlier in Beirut that it had "executed" U.S. Lieutenant Colonel William Higgins at 1200 GMT.

"The same thing will happen to Terry Waite at exactly the same time tommorow unless (Shakyh 'Abd-al-Karim) 'Ubayd is released by then," said the caller, who spoke in Lebanese-accented Arabic and English.

Mr. Waite, a Church of England envoy, disappeared in Beirut on January 20, 1987 while on a mission to obtain the release of foreign hostages in Lebanon.

His abduction has never been claimed.

"The Organization of the Oppressed in the World" released a videocassete Monday showing Lt. Col. Higgins hanged, after Israel failed to release Shaykh 'Ubayd and two bodyguards by the 1200 GMT Monday deadline set by the group.

The caller said the body of Lt. Col. Higgins, an officer with the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, had been dumped behind a hospital in Syrian-controlled West Beirut. He said Syrian forces picked up the corpse at 4 p.m. local time (1300 GMT) and "we are no longer responsible for the body." Syrian military officials in Beirut would not immediately comment on the report.

Shaykh 'Ubayd and his bodyguards were kidnapped before dawn Friday by Israeli commandos in south Lebanon. Israel offered Monday to trade them and its other Shiite prisoners for Israeli prisoners and foreign hostages held in Lebanon.

Syrian Source Denies Finding Body

NC0108073289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0720 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] A reponsible military source in the Syrian intelligence service denied to our security correspondent this morning that the body of Lieutenant Colonel Higgins was found behind a West Beirut hospital, according to the claim made by a spokesman for the Organization of the Oppressed on Earth. The Syrian source stressed that this claim is absolutely baseless.

New Deadline Given for Waite

NC0108085089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 01 Aug 89

[Text] In a telephone call to one of the private radio stations, a man speaking on behalf of the Oppressed on Earth Organization today confirmed the execution of Lieutenant Colonel William Higgins, denying a claim by a U.S. analyst that the U.S. colonel was executed when the Iranian airliner was shot down over the Gulf.

The caller added that UK hostage Terry Waite will be executed unless Shaykh 'Ubayd and his two colleagues are freed by midnight [2100 GMT]. The caller threatened the United States and Israel to strike at their interests all over the world unless Shaykh 'Ubayd is released this evening.

Today, Prime Minister Salim al-Huss called on those who hold other hostages not to harm any of them, regardless of their identities and affiliations. Al-Huss said: Meanwhile, we call on the civilized world to denounce the number one terrorist state in the world: Israel. Israel, he added, is causing incalculable damage through its terrorist practices and massive crimes which (?have filled) the land of Lebanon and Palestine with tragedy.

Al-Huss denounced the execution of Higgins, saying: We have been alarmed by the news of the execution of Lt Col Higgins, for we are against all acts of violence and murder.

Caller on Higgins, Waite, U.S.-Israeli Interests

NC0108090689 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0830 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] An unidentified person has called the Voice of the Homeland Radio in Beirut claiming to be speaking on behalf of the Organization of the Oppressed on Earth. In a statement he read to the radio, he said that the organization wants to clarify matters on the execution of U.S. spy Colonel William Higgins.

His statement said: In the name of God, the shatterer of tyrants, the supporter of the oppressed, and the God of the martyrs and virtuous who had been martyred in defense of the dignity of Muslims and to whom we pledge that we will follow their steps, we want to clarify matters on the execution of the U.S. spy Higgins. We executed him yesterday, not when the Iranian airliner was shot down over the Gulf as a U.S. analyst has said.

The statement added: We want to give a reminder and say that we will execute British hostage Terry Waite if the Zionists do not release Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and his companions by 2400 today [2100 GMT]. We also inform America and Israel that we will strike their interests all over the world if Shaykh 'Ubayd is not released this evening.

Iran, Syria Gave Go-Ahead for Higgins' Execution

NC0108151389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 01 Aug 89

[Text] The BAYRUT NEWS AGENCY has reported that Hizballah gunmen have been put on general alert in the areas in which they are present, following the announcement that Colonel Higgins has been executed. This measure has been taken as a precaution against any possible reaction. A general mobilization has also been declared.

The agency indicated that all [Hizballah] officials who are abroad have been urgently recalled and that all the gunmen who are receiving training in Iran at present have also been recalled. The agency said that Hizballah is preparing for suicide operations against the Israelis all along the border strip.

The BAYRUT NEWS AGENCY said that the hostages are not all in Lebanon and that Higgins' execution came after Iran and Syria gave Hizballah the green light.

Hizballah Source Ridicules Rabin's Swap Offer

NC0108142289 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1300 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] A responsible source in Hizballah has denounced Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's proposal regarding an exchange of prisoners. He described Rabin's offer as miserable and derisory. Rabin aims to cover up the crime of kidnapping Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and his two aides and to circumvent international reactions by an offer that appears to be humanitarian but in reality is malicious blackmail, the source declared.

The source added: We cannot see any comparison between Zionist invaders who were detained on our land and a religious scholar kidnapped from his own home in Lebanese territory. According to international norms, territory must not be violated. He said that, by his offer, Rabin wants to separate Shiite resistance men and other mujahidin, whether Lebanese or Palestinian. The source held the United States and Israel responsible for the crime of kidnapping Shaykh 'Ubayd and his two aides, for their continued detention, and for the repercussions of this operation.

Hizballah Radio Carries Organization's Statement

NC0108075489 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Excerpts] The Organization of the Oppressed on Earth distributed a videocassette yesterday afternoon, showing U.S. hostage Lieutenant Colonel Richard Higgins hanged and his hands and feet tied. The videocassette and a statement were delivered to AL-NAHAR newspaper in Beirut.

The literal text of the statement says: In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. Every engagement will be enquired into. Verily spoke the Almighty. [Koranic verse].

Since criminal America and the Zionist enemy have not taken seriously our decision to execute U.S. spy Higgins;

Because they did not release the mujahid, his Eminence Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, and his two relatives, at the specific deadline, taking lightly the threat we had made, the life of Higgins, and the holiness of our sacred sanctities;

And in implementation of the just judgment of the Almighty, the U.S. spy Higgins was hanged at exactly 1500 today [31 July], so that he may be an example to those who can comprehend, a subject of vengeance, and a message for anyone who has a heart and understanding, or who hears and earnestly witnesses the truth [Koranic verse].

We renew our demand for the immediate release of his eminence and his two brothers, because the worst is still to come. America and Israel will bear the full responsibility for that.

Death for America and Israel, and for the arrogant and their agents. Life and eternity to the pious heroes and martyrs of our nation. This is a pledge that we will continue the march along the course charted by their blessed arms and blood, to wipe out wicked Israel from the earth, to cut the hands of the arrogant who are messing around in our countries, particularly the criminal America, and to consolidate the Muslim religion and the nation of Muhammad, God's prayers and peace be on him and his family, until the banner of unity flies high all over the world.

[Signed] The Organization of the Oppressed on Earth

Further on Videocassette of Higgins Hanging

NC3107173989 Paris AFP in English 1727 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Beirut, July 31 (AFP)—A Lebanese underground group released a videocassette Monday showing U.S. Lieutenant Colonel William Higgins hanged, after Israel failed to meet the group's deadline for the release of a Shiite fundamentalist shaykh. [passage omitted]

Lt. Col. Higgins is the eighth foreign hostage and the third American to be executed in Lebanon since April 1985. The kidnappers of Briton Alec Colett also sent a videotape showing a hanged man, though the body could not clearly be identified.

The videotape delivered Monday unmistakeably shows the face of Lt. Col. Higgins, first blindfolded in a black-and-white segment then uncovered and in color.

Nonetheless, it includes no proof that the Marine was killed Monday. "The Organization of the Oppressed in the World" [as received] had announced last December its "decision to kill the American spy."

The abduction of Lt. Col. Higgins is the only kidnapping in Lebanon that was publicly supported by the pro-Iranian Hizballah Movement as well as by Shaykh 'Ubayd, who is said by Israel to be Hizballah's military leader in south Lebanon.

IRNA Reports Al-Huss Reaction to Kidnapping

LD3107155189 Tehran IRNA in English 1515 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Beirut, July 31, IRNA—Prime Minister of Lebanon Salim al-Huss in a statement issued here Monday [31 July] condemned Zionist kidnapping of Friday prayer leader of Jibshit village in southern Lebanon, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd describing it as another anti-human crime of Israel.

He said that a law suit will be filed on the latest crime of the Zionist regime stating that it cannot be ignored.

Al-Huss discussed the Friday kidnapping of Shaykh 'Ubayd in a telephone contact with prominent Lebanese alim, Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah and the Lebanese Ja'fari Mufti Shaykh 'Abd-al-Amir Qabalan on Sunday.

Prime Minister al-Huss also raised the matter with a group of Lebanese 'ulema, command members of Hizballah and the head of the Red Cross in Lebanon on Sunday.

Meanwhile the Foreign Ministry sent messages to the U.N. and Red Cross offices in Geneva on Sunday saying the Zionist action violated Lebanon's independence, freedom and integrity.

The Foreign Ministry called for immediate release of Shaykh 'Ubayd and two of his close associates and said the Zionist regime was responsible for his life.

'Awn Interviewed on Coming 'Relief,' Relations

NC2807194489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has emphasized that there will be no invasion of the liberated areas but an advance in the direction of the occupied areas in the future. In an interview with the magazine AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI, General 'Awn said that the liberation war has achieved its purpose in a very great manner during the current phase. He promised the people that relief will be attained in the coming season.

On Syria, General 'Awn said: I do not want the blockade to be lifted; I want the Syrians to withdraw. The important thing is to program the Syrian withdrawal under the supervision of an international or Arab witness. He added: Anyone who considers the equation to be solely his own and that he is singularly independent should beware; we can change the equations in the Middle East.

Responding to a question about the tripartite Arab committee, Gen 'Awn affirmed that the three greatest Arab states have not progressed one centimeter with the Syrian regime.

The prime minister disclosed that a military operation has been carried out in the area of Jall al-Bahr. He explained: We have groups there who can act as we want.

On internal relations, Gen 'Awn said: I do not attack Junblatt, Birri, and Al-Husayni because I am aware of the conditions under which they have made statements against me. Al-Huss is a man of knowledge and ethics and the most grieved in the occupied area. Dr Ja'Ja' is a loyal Lebanese who wants a final solution to the Lebanese problem to be reached.

'Awn on New 'Defensive Weapon,' Other Issues

NC2907135789 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Text] Michel 'Awn has said in a press statement: I do not want the blockade lifted; I want the Syrians to withdraw from Lebanon. This is the problem. I demand the liberation of Lebanese territory from all occupations regardless of whether the blockades are lifted. In his statement to the Lebanese weekly AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WA AL-DUWALI, 'Awn added: I don't care, but beware of those who tie the issue of liberation to that of the blockade. My goal is liberation and I will hold onto it.

Responding to a question on the first item in a timetable for withdrawal, 'Awn said: The withdrawal should begin in Beirut and the mountain.

Asked about the Lebanese people's stand on this war, 'Awn, after noting what he described as the big powers' stalling, said that Lebanon has been invaded several times in its history but the occupiers either withdrew or adapted to our way of life here and ended up becoming Lebanese like us.

On former President Franjiyah's stand, 'Awn said that he has the experience of being president and of age. His experience in Lebanese politics is unique. However, he currently remains silent, because he knows that the Lebanese crisis is very complicated and sensitive. Even if there are mistakes, Franjiyah does not criticize because he knows the difficulties the officials are facing.

Asked when he believes a solution can come about, 'Awn said: Next year, God willing.

Responding to a question on elections or liberation before reforms, 'Awn said that there will be no elections or reforms. Liberation is our sole demand and without it, the plot will continue and all efforts to achieve a settlement will fail.

Asked about the existence of missiles similar to FROG missiles in the hands of the army, 'Awn said: We are about to receive not only FROG missiles but also an appropriate defensive weapon. We decided to obtain this type of weapon because we feel that we are not an insignificant player in the Middle East. We can change the existing equations in the region.

Asked if he has this weapon which will guarantee that he will not be an insignificant player in the region, 'Awn said: I do not rely only on my own capabilities.

Asked if he would direct the weapons at Israel should he succeed in ousting Syria, 'Awn said: Our arms are only offensive against the enemy. Today, I am part of the political stage in the Middle East. Egypt concluded a peace agreement with Israel, established ties with Israel, and regained its territory. King Husayn received Shimon

Peres to discuss Arab issues. Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] now discloses that he has ties with Syria. In its results, Syrian policy agrees with Israeli policy as Damascus is pushing 'Arafat to start negotiations with Israel. No one has any obsession about this state anymore. When we find that we have an interest in resuming the al-Naqurah negotiations to liberate our land, we will not hesitate.

Gunmen Attack, Wound 2 Fatah Officials

NC0108084089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] According to an urgent report carried by REUTER 5 minutes ago, gunmen opened fire at two officials in the Fatah Movement and wounded them.

Official Killed, 6 Civilians Wounded

NC0108094589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Our correspondent in southern Lebanon has reported that three gunmen have opened fire at officials in the Fatah movement, killing Muhammad al-Asadi, the Fatah official in charge of financial affairs. The attack took place while the officials were passing near the al-'Arabi bakery in Sidon.

Al-Asadi's brother immediately opened fire at civilians who were passing in the area between the government house and Shu'ayb hospital. Accordingly, six civilians were wounded.

The security police of the Nasirite Popular Organization arrested the gunman when the bullets reached as far as the police station and the home of the organization leader, Mustafa Sa'd.

Concentrated Syrian Shellfire Reported 31 Jul

NC3107213089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2105 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] The coasts of Jubayl and Kasrawan, as well as al-Ashrafiyah, are now being subjected to concentrated shellfire from the Syrian artillery emplacements in Jall al-Bahr and al-Nahdah recreation ground in West Beirut. A responsible security source has advised the citizens to take precautionary measures and go to their shelters in view of the escalatory Syrian intentions.

1 Killed in Shelling; Other Incidents Reported

NC0108062689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Al-Ashrafiyah and the coasts of Jubayl and Kasrawan were shelled between 0345 and 0530 today. This was preceded at 2355 yesterday by intermittent shelling of al-Ashrafiyah, the central part of Upper al-Matn, and the coasts of Jubayl and Kasrawan. Citizen George 'Abbudi was killed and three other citizens were injured in the shelling of al-Ashrafiyah. The shelling originated from Syrian emplacements in the north, Upper al-Matn, and West Beirut.

Press sources in West Beirut said shells fell on 'Ayn al-Muraysah, the military base area, al-Rawshah, al-Ramlah al-Bayda'.

In another security development, a booby-trapped vehicle exploded after 2200 yesterday in the UNESCO area of West Beirut near the General Command of the Syrian Army. The explosion caused material damage only.

Shortly before midnight, an exchange of fire took place near the Beirut prison, only 200 meters from a Syrian roadblock. The internal security forces opened fire in retaliation but there were no casualties.

Gunmen Attack Nasirite Group Leader Motorcade

NC0108093089 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0810 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] According to a report from the south, about 15 minutes ago a clash ensued between four gunmen and the members of the motorcade of Engineer Mustafa Ma'ruf Sa'd [Leader of the Nasirite Popular Organization] at the al-Rahibat intersection near al-Shuhada' square, a few meters from his home.

According to preliminary information, the gunmen have been wounded, while Eng Sa'd escaped intact.

Source Denies Attack on Nasirite Leader Sa'd

NC0108093289 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] The Nasirite Popular Organization has denied reports that shots were fired on organization leader Mustafa Sa'd.

Denying reports by some local and foreign media organs that Mustafa Sa'd's motorcade was ambushed at Martyrs Square, a security source in the organization said that what really took place was that the leader's motorcade happened to be in the aforementioned area when an ambulance carrying a wounded person was passing. The ambulance was escorted by another car whose passengers were firing in the air to faciliate the passage of the ambulance.

He added: The Nasirite Popular Organization, while underlining this fact, calls on all media organs to check the truth before publishing any report on the organization.

2 Injured at Syrian Roadblock in Tripoli

NC0108091489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
0745 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] The 16 January Organization for the Liberation of Tripoli has declared that a unit from al-Fajr forces opened fire at a Syrian occupation forces roadblock today near the Abu-'Ali circle in Tripoli at 0250 today. The roadblock was directly hit and two persons were injured, one of them a Syrian intelligence member. The Syrians immediately combed Mahallat al-Saqiy and the nearby lemon groves, the organization's spokesman added.

He said that the organization pledges to all citizens that it will continue its operations against the Syrian forces and their agents until Tripoli is liberated from all Syrian troops.

Government Voices 'Disgust' Over Higgins Killing
JN3107204489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2017 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Damascus—An official source has stated the following:

The government has received with surprise and disgust the news of the killing of kidnapped U.S. Colonel William Higgins due to Israel's refusal to release Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, who was kidnapped by the Israeli forces from his house in southern Lebanon last Friday. The killing of Col Higgins without his being guilty of the kidnapping operation that was carried out by Israel is a crime that conflicts with human values.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic affirms its vehement condemnation of the killing of Col Higgins and of every terrorist act. It calls on the international community to hold Israel responsible for its terrorist acts, which it boasts of perpetrating in the sight and hearing of the world.

Paper Views Israel's 'New Crime' in S. Lebanon
JN2907065489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 29 Jul 89

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "A New Crime in Israel's Terrorist Record," AL-THAWRAH says: Yesterday, Israel added a new crime to its terrorist record of ugly crimes. An Israeli commando unit carried out an act of piracy in the south Lebanese village of Jibshit and abducted Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and two of his relatives after killing his bodyguard. This criminal operation comes at a time when Israel and its agent militias are escalating repression, terrorism, and annihilation against the southern Lebanese and emptying the southern villages and cities of their residents. This takes place under an overall Judaization operation which began in the village of Shab'a where Israel seized a large amount of land after expelling the inhabitants and the original owners.

After reviewing the Zionist terrorist esclation against the Lebanese in the south, AL-THAWRAH says: The world must put an end to these Zionist crimes that constitute a blatant challenge to the will of the international community and a blatant violation of every international charter and law. On the threshold of the 21st Century, such a racist entity, which is established on usurping land and displacing its owners and which uses every internationally-banned and condemned practice, should not continue to exist. It is also unacceptable to confuse the terrorism practiced by Israel with the legitimate liberation struggle waged by people to liberate their territory and restore their dignity and freedom.

Al-Asad Receives Lebanon's Nabih Birri
JN3007111289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] Damascus—President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1000 this morning Nabih Birri, head of the Amal Movement and minister of justice, southern affairs, and water and electricity resources in Lebanon. Talks centered on the Lebanese situation.

Arab Tripartite Committee Announces 'Failure'
JN0108090089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0815 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] The foreign ministers of the Arab tripartite committee in charge of finding a solution to the Lebanese crisis have announced the failure of their mission and their inability to continue their mission, which reached a dead end.

In a statement yesterday, the tripartite committee ministers expressed the committee's regret over the Lebanese developments that are aimed against the Lebanese citizen. The statement, which reviewed the committee's efforts and proposals as well as its Lebanese, Syrian, Arab, and international contacts, said the committee believes that its mission has reached a dead end.

Defense Minister Says Lebanon To Remain Arab
JN3107200289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] On the occasion of the 44th anniversary of our Syrian Arab Army's foundation and as part of our Armed Forces celebrations of this glorious occasion, ceremonies were held this morning to inaugurate some military facilities in one of our educational establishments. Festivities took place under the patronage of General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and minister of defense; and with the presence of General Hasan Turkmani, deputy chief of staff of the Army and the Armed Forces; and a number of command officers and units.

Events included traditional protocol procedures, a presentation of the establishment's courses, expressive speeches, and parades.

Amidst our military masses' chants, the general defense minister delivered a speech, at the beginning of which he conveyed the greetings of the Comrade Leader Hafiz al-Asad to his sons, the fighters, and his best wishes that they will succeed in performing their blessed duties.

The general then reviewed the history of our Armed Forces since their establishment, touching on their development under the March revolution and their qualitative development in performance, training, and preparedness under the blessed corrective movement led by Comrade Leader Hafiz al-Asad, hero of the two Tishrins.

The general affirmed that the Army of Al-Asad's Syria since its establishment has been the Army of the Arab nation, where it waged the 1948 war over Palestinian territory. It also performed its pan-Arab duties during the 1956 and 1967 wars. The October war of liberation was the war of the Arab nation when our Army, alongside the Egyptian Army, managed to record heroic epics and put an end to the myth of the invincibility of the Israeli Army.

The general affirmed that the presence of our forces in Lebanon in defense of its people and land confirms the Arab identity of our Army and the sacredness of its duties. It is also a deposit of loyalty to the Arab nation from doctrinal, pan-Arab, and revolutionary perspective.

He also affirmed that Lebanon shall remain Arab in face, hand, and tongue despite the attempts of 'Awn and those supporting him in Tel Aviv and Baghdad, whose conspiracies are bound to fail. This is the inevitability of history.

Concluding his speech, the general praised the achievements of the establishment and wished those living and working there development and success.

After that, the general and those accompanying him toured the establishment and saw its educational and training achievements.

Khaddam Receives Egyptian Agricultural Team
JN3107191289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam this evening received Muhammad Idris, secretary general of the Central Agricultural Cooperative Union in Egypt and his delegation with Comrade Ahmad Qabalan, member of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and Comrade Mustafa al-'Ayid, head of the Peasants Union in Syria, in attendance. Talks centered on boosting ties between popular organizations in the Arab countries.

Al-Asad Receives Message From Bulgarian President
JN2707133289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 27 Jul 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today received Atanas Samsarev, ambassador of the People's Republic of Bulgaria in Damascus, and received a message for President Hafiz al-Asad from Bulgarian President Todor Zhivkov. The message deals with issues of mutual interest.

Al-Asad Congratulates New Polish Party Chief
JN3007150089 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1415 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] Damascus, 30 Jul (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad has sent a cable of congratulations to Mieczyslaw Rakowski on the occasion of his election as first secretary to the Polish United Workers' Party expressing his sincerest congratulations and best wishes for success.

The president added that he is confident that relations between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Polish United Workers' Party and between Syria and Poland will continue to improve.

Afghanistan

Mujahidin Leader Warns Superpowers Not To Bargain

BK3107145989 Hong Kong AFP in English 1406 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Islamabad, July 31 (AFP)—The prime minister of the provisional Afghan mujahidin government on Monday [31 July] warned the United States and the Soviet Union not to engage in any bargaining against the guerrillas' will.

Rasul Sayyaf made the comment in a message timed with the opening in Stockholm on Monday of Soviet-U.S. consultations in which Afghanistan was expected to figure prominently.

"We are slaves to none but Allah alone. Neither of the two superpowers can dictate their policies to us. They must know that they are not our advocates," he said in a statement, reported by the pro-resistance AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY (ANA) and monitored here.

"We want to proclaim that it is the Afghan mujahidin who have the legitimate authority to decide the future of Afghanistan," Mr. Sayyaf was quoted by ANA as saying.

He appealed for "all peace- and freedom-loving countries of the world to support our just struggle, which is aimed at achieving complete independence."

Mr. Sayyaf heads the Etehad-e Eslami (Islamic Union), one of seven Sunni factions of the guerrilla alliance, based in Peshawar, Pakistan, that is fighting the Soviet-supported regime in Kabul.

The Islamic Union, founded in 1983, receives substantial aid from Saudi Arabia but plays a minimal role inside Afghanistan. A member of the Wahhabi sect, like the Saudi royal family, Mr. Sayyaf is known for his anti-Shiite views.

Western Diplomats: 'Coup' Attempt Thwarted

BK0108110089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1051 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 1 (AFP)—The Kabul Government is believed to have thwarted a coup attempt against President Najibullah with the arrest last month of 300 people in a massive police sweep in Afghanistan, Western diplomats here said Tuesday.

Citing "highly reliable sources," the diplomats said "tension increased suddenly" within the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) following the July 18 police sweep when "officers, and especially generals, were arrested in Kabul and other important cities."

A press conference called by the Afghan Foreign Ministry was cancelled "without explanation" on July 19 and the government daily KABUL TIMES failed to appear three days later, the diplomats added.

"Highly reliable sources indicated that these events are all linked to the discovery of a plot against the government," a diplomat said, adding that no information was available on how advanced the plot was when it was discovered.

Some information suggests the possible implication of Afghan Defense Minister Shahnawaz Tanay, the diplomats said, but stressed they had "no proof" to corroborate his involvement.

Radio Kabul reported on the evening of July 18 that security forces had questioned "303 suspects" in the capital earlier that day. But the official radio linked the arrests to the resurgence of "subversive activities" led by the "enemies of Afghanistan," a term usually used to refer to mujahidin guerrillas fighting the regime.

Three days earlier a bomb blast in Kabul left some 20 people dead.

Since Mr. Najibullah became president in May 1986 replacing Babrak Karmal, who resigned for "health reasons," tensions between the Khalq and Parcham factions of the PDPA have surfaced regularly, Islamabad-based diplomats say.

The Khalq wing retains influence within the Armed Forces, the diplomats say, while noting that Mr. Najibullah, who is affiliated with the Parcham faction, last year created his own "presidential guard" of 40,000 well-trained and well-paid soldiers.

Kabul Paying 'Heavy Price' in Jalalabad

BK0108121789 Hong Kong AFP in English 1139 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 1 (AFP)—The Kabul government has paid a heavy price for the defence of its strategic eastern city of Jalalabad, Western diplomats said here Tuesday [1 August].

The diplomats, quoting reliable sources, said the successive government offensives had cost government forces more than 60 tanks and armoured personnel carriers between July 6-19 as troops made repeated attempts to dismantle rebel positions east of the city.

The mujahidin captured a key garrison near Jalalabad on March 7 and advanced towards the city and airport. Kabul forces launched an all-out attack three months later pushing a few kilometers (miles) outside the city but could not continue their advance to totally flush out the rebel forces.

Regime losses were reported to have remained high since July 19.

Apparently to compensate the heavy losses, the "Soviet air bridge is continuing at an unprecedented rate with some reports putting the number of flights at over 40 per day," one diplomat said.

Fighting remained heavy in the area during July amid successive offensives by Afghan troops and mujahidin counter attacks.

The diplomats said most sources indicated that mujahidin losses continue to be "surprisingly low," though civilian casualties from high-altitude bombing and long-range Scud missile impacts have been reported.

According to diplomats, regime troops launched several attacks east of Jalalabad in an attempt to dislodge the mujahidin and capture Samar Kheyl garrison about 20 kilometers (12 miles) from Jalalabad.

"In each case, the regime forces drove into Samar Kheyl with tanks and armoured personnel carriers, but failed to take the heights" overlooking the garrison, one diplomat said. Mujahidin fire from the heights forced the regime forces to pull out of the town again, they said.

Their report contradicts government claims that Afghan troops after "breaking the siege" have pushed back guerrillas some 40 kilometres (28 miles) beyond Jalalabad on the highway linking the beleaguered city with the Pakistani border post of Towr Kham. "The regime forces suffered heavy losses of armoured vehicles in these failed attacks," another diplomat said.

The diplomats said the regime front line was at Seracha, one kilometer (less than a mile) west of Samar Kheyl. The mujahidin last week repulsed a series of attacks to take back the high grounds, inflicting heavy damage to regime armoured vehicles, sources said.

Government forces continue to hold much ground around Jalalabad which they captured when their offensive was launched on July 6, they said.

In addition to territory between Khushgumbad and Samar Kheyl, they captured Behsud on the north bank of the Kabul River opposite the city.

The regime helicopters are now able to land and unload at the airport, although at the risk of some standoff fire, the diplomats said.

Reports from west of the city said mujahidin had blocked the Kabul-Jalalabad highway but regime vehicles were still able to pass at night.

Rebels Down 3 Helicopters, 5 Tanks in Vardak

BK3107145289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1435 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Islamabad, July 31 (AFP)—Afghan mujahidin rebels destroyed three government helicopters and five tanks as fighting flared Sunday in western Afghanistan's Vardak Province, the pro-resistance AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY (ANA) reported Monday.

Several mujahidin groups launched a joint operation against government regulars in the provincial capital of Maydan Shahr, only 30 kilometers (18 miles) southwest of Kabul. In the fierce weekend fighting, the mujahidin reportedly shot down three helicopters and knocked out five tanks.

The agency did not give casualty numbers for the Kabul troops, but put mujahidin losses at six dead and 10 wounded.

Kabul has recently sent reinforcements to avoid the fall of Maydan Shahr, which the mujahidin have said was the only city in Vardak Province not in their control, the pro-resistance AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS (AIP) news agency said. AIP did not give number of troops the Kabul regime had deployed.

Maydan Shahr briefly fell to mujahidin earlier this year. But in July it again became a rebel front and there have been reports that a top fundamentalist leader, Golbuddin Hekmatyar, chief of Hezb-e Eslami (Islamic Party) guerrilla group, was himself in the province to lead the attacks.

Surface-to-Surface Rockets Kill 14 in Kabul

LD3107161389 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Professional killers, the enemies of our Muslim and religious people, this morning and afternoon fired 11 surface-to-surface rockets into the crowded areas of Kabul, killing 14 of our compatriots, including innocent children, women, and old people, and injuring 38 others. A reporter for BAKHTAR's military section writes:

This morning at 0830 the sound of the first rocket was heard over Kabul. The rocket fired by these killers hit Avicena Hospital, where our people receive treatment. Soon afterwards, another rocket hit a bus station near the Pamir movie theater, martyring a number of our compatriots. These were people who had come downtown to buy bread for their children. One mother was screaming over the dismembered body of her son. The air around Avicena Hospital was filled with mourning and sorrow. Hatred and resentment could be sensed all around.

In the afternoon, more rockets hit the mud houses belonging to our compatriots. Smoke went up in the sky. A number of our compatriots were wounded as a result,

and their mud houses, built through their toil, shattered. However, on the other side those who shamelessly claim that [words indistinct] who are earning a lot of money by their shameful acts.

24 Dead; 58 Wounded

BK3107170089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1628 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Kabul, July 31 (AFP)—Afghan rebels fired a barrage of rockets into downtown Kabul Monday, killing at least 24 people and wounding 58, government officials said. Hospital sources, however, put the death toll from the 14 rockets that slammed into the city Monday at over thirty dead and 70 wounded.

One rocket hit a tram moving slowly along the banks of the Kabul River tearing through its metal frame and causing a metre- (yard-) deep crater, a second hit a cycle repair shop and another thudded into a concrete and steel fence outside the Avicena Emergency Hospital.

Government spokesman Mohammed Nabi Amani said nine people were killed and 22 injured in the three hits, although reliable hospital sources and witnesses put the death toll at 17 and the number wounded at 34.

Mr. Amani told reporters that elsewhere in the city 15 people were killed and 36 wounded when guerrilla rockets struck residential areas, including the fashionable Wazir Akbar Khan area in central Kabul where many diplomats live and where several embassies are located. There were no reports of any casualties among the diplomatic community or of damage to embassies.

The spokesman said the army killed 75 mujahidin guerrillas during the past 24 hours around Jalalabad city in eastern Nangarhar Province and seized several weapons and a large quantity of ammunition.

In Kabul, the worst damage and the most casualties occurred around the Avicena Hospital in the downtown Pule Artan neighbourhood, where the three rockets hit within minutes of each other around 9 a.m. (0230 GMT). [passage omitted]

Battles in Jalalabad, Khowst, Qandahar Noted

LD3107175389 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] BAKHTAR's military section, quoting an armed forces source, reports that during mopping up and ambush operations in the outsksirts of Jalalabad City, 79 mortar shells, [words indistinct] DShK ammunition, 34 missiles, 29 rocket shells, four boxes of handgrenades, and 18 antitank shells have been seized.

The report adds that the joint forces of Pakistani militia, Saudi Wahhabis, and the murderous groups belonging to them subjected the security posts outside Jalalabad city with long-range weapons fire supported by artillery from the Pakistani XI Corps. Thirty-six enemy were killed and 53 wounded as a result of crushing retaliation by the heroic units and companies stationed there. Those killed include a Saudi Wahhabi leader, four mercenaries, and four Pakistani militiamen. Enemy weaponary destroyed include three BM-12 units, four missile systems, nine mortars, four recoilless guns, three DShK's, an arms and ammunition dump, and three vehicles loaded with arms and ammunition.

The source adds that criminal groups attached to Pakistan yesterday shelled the [words indistinct] of Khowst District, wounding a member of the armed forces. As a result of blows by the armed forces, 14 enemies of our people were killed and 19 wounded.

According to another report, as of result of heavy weapons' fire in Qandahar Province by the killers of our people one member of the armed forces was martyred and one wounded. As a result of reciprocal attacks by the units of Qandahar Province six enemy were killed and some heavy weapons destroyed.

Rebel Operations Reported in Balkh Province

BK0108041489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say, mujahidin captured two posts of the Kabul regime in Chimtal District of Balkh Province. They have also attacked Kabul regime forces in Baghlan City, causing damage to them. There are also reports of clashes between mujahidin and Kabul regime forces in Nangarhar, Qandahar, and (Maydan) Provinces.

4 Mujahidin Groups Join Iran-Based Rebels

BK0108015089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1852 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, July 31 (AFP)—Four smaller groups of Afghan mujahidin rebels announced Monday [31 July] that they had joined eight Iran-backed Shiite parties in a coalition to fight for an Islamic government in Afghanistan.

The parties have set up a Council of Jihad (holy war) to step up the struggle against the Soviet-backed regime of Najibullah, a joint communique said.

Condemning "foreign interference in the name of seeking a political solution (to the Afghan problem)," the parties expressed willingness to cooperate with "any party not in conflict with the aim of establishing an Islamic government in Afghanistan."

The four Afghan parties, based in Pakistan, are two splinter groups of the Harakat-e Enqelab-e (Revolutionary Movement) led by Nasrullah Mansur and Rafiullah al-Mu'azin, the Etehad-e Eslami (Islamic Unity) of Afghanistan led by Qazi Mohammed Amin [name as received], and the Council of Islamic Alliance of Zahedi.

At a joint press conference here, representatives of the groups said Iran had endorsed the new alliance. They said the new council did not plan to set up another government and would be willing to cooperate with the Afghan interim government if its leaders did "not repeat the past mistakes" of not accepting the Iran-based groups' demand for seven seats in the rebel cabinet.

Harakat's third and major faction is already sharing power with the Peshawar-based seven-party alliance formed to topple the Kabul regime through military struggle.

The joint communique said that "the Afghan Jihad has entered a critical phase with the departure of the Soviet forces in February."

The six-month-old interim government "contrary to the nation's expectations could not step up the Jihad to realise its goal of establishing an independent Islamic government in Afghanistan. The individualistic approach of parties has prolonged Najibullah's stay in power," it said.

"We would work for greater unity and continue to maintain contacts with the interim government," the communique said.

Rebel Groups Engage in Armed Clashes in Helmand
LD3107190189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Severe clashes have taken place between Golbuddin and rival groups in Helmand Province. BAKHTAR's military section reports that as a result of the clashes caused by internecine differences and the distribution of looted property, 14 people of the belligerent sides were killed in the areas of (Hurzad) and Nahr-e Saraj in Helmand Province and 30 others were injured.

Clearing Operation Near Kabul Captures Arms
LD3107192489 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] A sarandoy infantry force carried out a clearing operation in districts of Kabul Province yesterday to prevent satanic plots against our Muslim people. BAKHTAR's military section reports that as a result of this clearing operation seven ground-to-ground rockets, 404 artillery shells, 240 missiles, and thousands of machinegun bullets which were hidden in the Kabul area by the criminal enemies of our people were captured with the cooperation of people.

Similarly, a food depot, a large number of ground-to-ground rocket fuses, rocket propellent, and various brands of ammunition have been destroyed.

Situation 6 Months After Soviet Withdrawal Noted
BK3007114289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1134 GMT 30 Jul 89

[By Rene Slama]

[Text] Islamabad, July 30 (AFP)—Six months after the Soviet pullout from Afghanistan, President Najibullah is still in power in Kabul, internal dissent is increasing within the mujahidin and the chances for peace seem dim.

Western analysts here say opportunies for finding a quick resolution to the war seem more and more uncertain, even as Soviet and U.S. diplomats meet in Stockholm on Monday for "consultations" on the subject.

Meanwhile, the murderous civil war rages everywhere, with rocket attacks pummelling not only main supply roads into large cities but also the cities. In July alone, some 150 civilians were killed in rocket attacks on the capital, Kabul.

Defying the predictions of experts, who said his Moscow-backed government could not last long after the February 15 Soviet troop pullout, Mr. Najibullah's regime is not falling apart—even if his Army remains largely confined to provincial capitals, transformed into military fortresses and under fire from various mujahidin units.

But the mujahidin's internal problems have kept them from achieving any significant success, militarily or diplomatically, Western experts say. Their chief obstacles are the complete lack of coordination among the diverse mujahidin factions, Moscow's continued delivery of ultra-sophisticated weaponry to Kabul's forces, and Mr. Najibullah's personal ability, they say.

Mr. Najibullah, profiting from his opposition's division, has managed to keep the initiative by issuing multiple calls for ceasefires and dialogue and by presenting himself as a "victim of U.S.-Pakistani militarist designs," a Western diplomat said.

But not one of the seven Sunni factions of the mujahidin alliance, based in Pakistan, is ready to sit at the negotiating table with Mr. Najibullah, whom they hold responsible for the deaths of "several tens of thousands" of their countrymen.

The United States and Pakistan, who support the mujahidin, also rule out any talks with the Kabul leader. "War in Afghanistan will continue until Najibullah's communist regime steps down," said Peter Tomsen, the U.S. special envoy to the Afghan resistance, after promising "more sophisticated" weapons to the mujahidin in the near future.

Mr. Najibullah's "charm offensive" contrasts with the open conflict that broke out between two main mujahidin groups on July 9 in the northern Afghan Province of Takhar, when some 30 mujahidin were killed in an ambush sprung by a rival group. The fighters were on their way to a meeting with Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, a commander belonging to the relatively moderate Jamiyat-e Eslami (Society of Islam). The Jamiyat said the attack was carried out by members of the Hezb-e Eslami (Islamic Party) wing headed by Golbuddin Hekmatyar, the most radical mujahidin leader and minister for foreign affairs in the provisional mujahidin government. The mujahidin formed a provisional government in February based in Peshawar, Pakistan.

The U.S. State Department condemned the Takhar incident as a "brutal and tragic act" and demanded that the mujahidin act swiftly to unify their forces. But the appeal for order has not calmed tensions between the two competing factions.

On Saturday at a large gathering in a Peshawar refugee camp, the Jamiyat's political chief, Burhanuddin Rabbani, asked other Afghan resistance leaders to "suspend the participation" of the Hezb-e Eslami in the provisional government until a "council of wise men" judges the Takhar incident.

In his reply, Mr. Hekmatyar accused the Jamiyat faction of committing "atrocities" against his men. He also attacked the head of the provisional government, Sebgatullah Mojaddedi, a moderate, for showing "partiality" in the conflict by "fanning the fire instead of putting it out."

Bangladesh

Ershad in Military Hospital With Throat Problem

BK3107075089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0731 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Dhaka, July 31 (AFP)—President Hussain Mohammad Ershad is under complete medical rest at Dhaka's military hospital after he developed a throat complication late last week, sources at the presidential house said Monday [31 July].

The 59-year-old general, who returned to the capital Wednesday from a two-day extensive trip by road to southern Bangladesh, was admitted to the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) at Dhaka garrison Sunday morning, the sources said. He had been advised complete rest for two to three days.

All official schedules of the president for Sunday and Monday had been cancelled and no visitors were allowed, the sources said, adding that he was expected to leave hospital Tuesday.

A presidential official confirmed that Mr. Ershad had been advised complete rest and that he was having a medical check-up at the hospital. But he declined to give details. No medical bulletin was issued and hospital doctors were unavailable for comment.

General Ershad, who came to power in a 1982 bloodless coup and is Bangladesh's longest-serving president, was himself at the wheel during a day-long drive Tuesday through six southern districts, and addressed scores of receptions and public meetings.

The official BSS news agency reported that he drove more than 130 kilometres (80 miles), ending up at coastal Patuakhali town Tuesday, to "see the condition of the people as well as the communications network" after last year's devastating floods. Mr. Ershad was last reported in the CMH last year for a minor operation on his nose.

Ershad Welcomes India-Sri Lanka Pullout Accord

BK2907132289 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Excerpt] President Ershad has welcomed [as heard] both President Ranasinghe Premadasa of Sri Lanka and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi of India for the successful negotiations between the two countries that has made possible the recommencement of the withdrawal of the Indian Peacekeeping Force from Sri Lanka.

In a message to them, the president said this outcome was a vindication of all the principles for which Bangladesh had stood and for which Bangladesh had fought. He said the defusing of the situation in response to the deeply felt aspirations of this region without exception and conformed fully to the objectives of the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation]. [sentence as heard] He also conveyed to the two leaders warm personal congratulations on this hearty development. [passage omitted]

Joint Commission Meeting With Pakistan Begins

BK3007163489 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] The third meeting of the Bangladesh-Pakistan Joint Economic Commission [JEC] began in Dhaka today. Commerce Minister M.A. Sattar is leading the Bangladesh side at the meeting, while visiting Pakistani minister of state for finance, economic affairs, planning and development, Ehsanul Haq Piracha, is leading his country's delegation.

In his opening speech, the commerce minister said there is considerable scope to expand and diversify the trade and commerce between the two countries. The Pakistani minister said the JEC is a useful forum for furthering efforts of the two governments for the uplift of their people.

During the opening session, two committees on trade and economic affairs were formed. They will review the performances, find out bottlenecks if any, and suggest measures for rectification. They will also explore new avenues for expanding mutually beneficial bilateral cooperation.

Both sides agreed to extend the duration of the JEC by another 5 years. The agreed minutes between the two sides are likely to be signed on Tuesday next.

The visiting Pakistani minister later called on Prime Minister Moudud Ahmed, Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud, and Finance Minister Dr Wahidul Haq in the capital today. They stressed the need for exchange of private sector delegations between the two countries for identifying new areas of cooperation.

Ershad Congratulates Iran's New President

BK3007132489 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] President Ershad has felicitated Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on his election as the president of Iran. In a message to the president of Iran, the president expressed his conviction that under the leadership of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Iran would continue to make significant strides toward achieving further progress and prosperity. He also hoped that the existing fraternal relations between the two governments and the people would be further strengthened.

Japanese Government To Provide Grant-in-Aid

OW3107022189 Tokyo KYODO in English 2319 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] Dhaka, July 31 KYODO—Japan will provide Bangladesh with a grant-in-aid of 5,057 million yen under 3 exchanges of notes signed here Sunday between the 2 countries. The funds will be used for the procurement of wheat and rice, the financing of a bridge construction project and implementation of a sewerage project in Dhaka, the official BSS News Agency reported. Of this 1,300 million yen will used to purchase wheat from the United States and rice from thailand under the Kennedy Round Food Aid Program of the Japanese Government.

The second set of notes, worth 1,936 million yen, is the fourth allocation for the on-going Meghna Bridge Construction Project. Japan will provide a total of 7.95 billion yen for the construction of the vital bridge linking Dhaka with the southern port city of Chittagong. With Sunday's signing of the exchange of notes, assistance to the bridge project so far amonts to 7,116 million yen.

The third set of notes relates to a grant of 1,812 million yen as the second term allocation for the implementation of an urgent sewerage project for Dhaka. Total Japanese assistance for the project will be 5,022 million yen and with the signing of Sunday's notes, assistance for this project now stands at 3,451 million yen, BSS said.

India

Pact With Sri Lanka Reviewed at Delhi Meeting

BK3107160389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] The high-level Indian and Sri Lankan delegations had a very detailed review of the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement during their talks in New Delhi today. Later, an official spokesman told newsmen that the discussions were frank, friendly, and satisfactory. He said the Sri Lankan ministers—Mr Ranjan Wijeratne and Mr A.C.S. Hameed—had another round of extensive discussions with the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao. The working groups of the two countries also met and discussed the whole range of issues connected with the agreement.

Replying to queries from newsmen, the spokesman said one of the main points of discussions was the devolution of powers and the related question of the safety and security of all communities in the Northeastern Province of Sri Lanka.

The Sri Lankan delegation comprising the foreign minister, Mr Ranjan Wijeratne, and the minister for higher education, Mr A.C.S. Hameed, called on the prime minister today. The meeting lasted 1 hour and 45 minutes. The discussions covering all aspects of the Indo-Sri Lanka relations in the context of the recent developments were warm and cordial.

No Settlement Reached in Talks

BK3107165489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1615 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Excerpt] New Delhi, July 31 (AFP)—India and Sri Lanka have yet to reach a settlement on a timetable for the withdrawal of 45,000 Indian soldiers from the island nation, a government spokesman said here Monday.

External Affairs Ministry spokesman Aftab Seth said "nothing has been finalised yet," refering to the contentious issue of visiting Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne's demand for a plan for the withdrawal of the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF).

The 10-member Sri Lankan delegation, headed by Mr. Wijeratne has held discussions at various levels on wide-ranging issues including cessation of military offensives by the IPKF against Sri Lanka's dominant Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels, Mr. Seth said.

He described the talks as "frank, friendly and satisfactory" but did not say if New Delhi had agreed to halt military action against the LTTE or if the Sri Lankan side has given ground on the issue of devolution of

powers to Sri Lanka's minority Tamils. He made no reference to the IPKF's Sunday offensive in Sri Lanka's Mannar region where 33 Tamil Tigers were reported to have died.

Informed officials say India would neither yield to Sri Lankan pressure for an overly early withdrawal timeframe or an abrupt halt in military offensives against the LTTE which last month promised Colombo that it was halting all anti-government hostilities.

The talks also revolved around the law and order situation in Sri Lanka's Tamil-dominated North and East Provinces, financial and security guarantees for the region's minority population, the spokesman said but did not disclose if any agreement had been reached. [passage omitted]

Former Minister Resigns From Congress-I Party

BK3107163889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] The former union agriculture minister, Rao Birendra Singh, has resigned from the Lok Sabha and the primary membership of the Congress-I. In a letter to the prime minister, copies of which were released to the press, Rao Birendra Singh said he is not happy over the way the party handled many issues, including the Comptroller and Auditor General's report [on Bofors gun deal]. Rao Birendra Singh said the role of the opposition is also not better in any way. His resignation has been accepted by the speaker.

Reacting to the resignation, the Congress-I general secretary, Mr V.N. Gadgil, told newsmen in New Delhi this evening that it would have no impact on the party. Another general secretary, Mr K.N. Singh, said that Rao Birendra Singh had not understood the main thrust of policies and programs of the party and the government.

Another MP Resigns

BK0108082789 Hong Kong AFP in English 0802 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 1 (AFP)—Another opposition MP [member of Parliament] resigned from Parliament Tuesday, taking the tally of mass resignations to a total 97 over a 1.3 billion dollar controversial gun deal.

Regional Asom Gana Parishad Party MP Parag Chalitha vacated his seat in Parliament as part of a 12-party opposition strategy to boycott the Lower House, or Lok Sabha, for the rest of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's five-month official tenure.

Mr. Chalitha's resignation came one day after Mr. Gandhi's ruling Congress (I) Party suffered a setback when the premier's former Agriculture Minister Rao Birendra Singh resigned from Parliament to protest the government's stand on an official report on the Bofors gun deal.

Mr. Gandhi's administration last week launched a scathing attack on the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) which listed several irregularities in the 1986 purchase of the 155-millimetre (six-inch) Swedish howitzers.

The opposition, which has accused Mr. Gandhi and key defence officials for accepting up to 50 million dollars in kickbacks to clinch the Bofors deal, has warned that a total of 106 MPs would resign Parliament, to protest the premier's refusal to step down.

Meanwhile, opposition MPs shouted anti-government slogans and walked out in protest from the Upper House, the Rajya Sabha, when Minister of State for Home Affairs Palaniappan Chidambaram said that the "government has reached the tentative conclusion that no middleman or Indian was a beneficiary in the payments made by Bofors on the gun deal". Terming the minister's statement as "unsatisfactory", the opposition walked out from the house amid shouts and non-stop noise.

CAG has said 42.6 million dollars were paid to three overseas firms by the Bofors in the deal.

Two Sikh MPs of the Akali Dal also quit the lower house Tuesday, boosting the number of resigned opposition parliamentarians to 99. Bhai Shaminder Singh and Mewa Singh Gill handed their resignations to Lok Sabha Speaker Balram Jhakhar.

In a joint statement the two Sikh MPs said Mr. Gandhi's government was not only "inefficient, autocratic, undemocratic and oppressive but also ridden with rampant corruption".

Hijacker of Plane to Pakistan in 1981 Arrested

BK3107124989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] The Haryana police have arrested the dreaded terrorist Amritpal Singh Dhillon in Karnal. He was the main accused in the hijacking of an Indian Airline's plane to Pakistan in 1981. The terrorist was carrying a reward of 40,000 rupees on his head.

Paper on IPKF Withdrawal; U.S. View Criticized

BK2207155589 Delhi PATRIOT in English 13 Jul 89 p 4

[Editorial: "What Not To Do in Lanka"]

[Text] Seldom, perhaps, has the US been so deceptive in its official attitude towards India as on the role of this country in Sri Lanka. By all appearances, of course, Washington supports New Delhi in this regard: quick to welcome the India-Sri Lanka Agreement of 1987, it has now voiced understanding of our Government's position on the issue of the Indian Peace-Keeping Force's [IPKF] withdrawal. But the ground it has continued to cite for doing so amounts to a condemnation. The regional

power's alleged right to regulate the region's affairs, which Washington claims to recognise, is precisely what those clamouring for an early IPKF pullout so self-righteously claim to be questioning. This is certainly not the ground on which the Indian Government is defending its own oppostion to a withdrawal by a deadline decided unilaterally by Colombo. Its formal position is that the pullout is not possible and will be premature before devolution of powers to the Tamil-dominated North-Eastern Province and the Tamil security have been assured. This would appear to find approval by an American journal, which is not official but may still be said to reflect the establishmentarian view. The US DEFENCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS WEEKLY says that, in case of a massacre of Tamils following the pullout, the Indian Government is likely to be held responsible. The weekly, however, adds that India may also take the flak for any bloodshed resulting from a decision to put off the withdrawal. It has also spoken of the possibility of a coup in Sri Lanka and asserted that the island is "headed for the worst". The message for New Delhi must be that it is in an unenviable bind. It is more than likely to face opprobrium and, quite possibly, even more active forms of hostility (from quarters that have never been friendly to it despite recent pretensions to the contrary) either way, pullout or no pullout. Which prospect only prescribes a tough task for Indian diplomacy. This can be successfully performed, given that our diplomacy has not exactly distinguished itself in this particular domain in the recent past, only if it is aided by a new clarity in New Delhi's policy that, while recognising our security interests involved in the Lanka imbroglio, would refuse to acknowledge any indefinitely extensible role in the settlement of an internal problem of a sovereign state.

U.S. Assistance in Aircraft Development 'Likely'

BK0108083089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] The Rajya Sabha was informed today that the indigenous design and development phase of the light combat aircraft is to be started shortly. The house was told in a written reply that U.S. technologies in flight control systems and aviation simulations are likely to be made available.

The house was informed in another written reply that during the defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant's, recent visit to the United States that country had proposed joint naval exercises of Indian and U.S. Navy. The members were told that specific requests if and when received will be considered on merit.

Gandhi Confident of Winning Despite Opposition

BK2907015989 Hong Kong AFP in English 1922 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] New Delhi, July 28 (AFP)—India's Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi said Friday [28 July] he was confident his ruling Congress (I) party would win the elections in five months time despite opposition tactics, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said.

Mr. Gandhi denounced the recent mass resignations this week by opposition MP's [members of Parliament] from the lower house of Parliament, maintaining that their protest action over a 1.3 billion U.S. dollar Swedish gun deal had in no way weakened his party.

This would be "decisively reflected in the next general elections," due in December, Mr. Gandhi, who is also his party's president, was quoted by PTI as saying at a meeting of Congress (I) MP's here.

Lower house proceedings were brought to a halt for three straight days last week when MP's from various opposition parties noisly demanded that Mr. Gandhi resign over the 1986 deal.

Some 92 opposition MP's from 12 parties resigned in the wake of a report last month by the federal comptroller and auditor general presented to Parliament which said the Swedish firm Bofors had paid 42.6 million dollars in kickbacks to three overseas firms in the deal.

Mr. Gandhi has denied the presence of middlemen in the deal.

"If anyone looks at the audit report he would note that the report had looked at issues from the financial angle," PTI quoted him as saying in an obvious comment on opposition Janata Dal (People's Party) leader Vishwanath Pratap Singh.

As the then finance minister in Mr. Gandhi's cabinet, Mr. Pratap Singh had approved funding for the deal. Mr. Pratap Singh, who was thrown out of the Congress (I) because of differences of opinion, has spearheaded the campaign against Mr. Gandhi, and has said he was only concerned with the financial clearance of the deal and nothing else.

Foreign Debt Soars to $41.7 Billion

BK2807144089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1427 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] New Delhi, July 28 (AFP)—India's total foreign debt, government and non-government, stood at $41.7 billion at the end of fiscal 1988-89, Minister of State for Finance Eduardo Faliero said here.

The minister told parliament Thursday that multilateral loans accounted for $18.6 billion of India's total overseas borrowings and bilateral loans accounted for $12.4 billion.

Total commercial borrowing by March 31 stood at $10.5 billion, the minister added. India's fiscal year begins April 1.

The figure, which is almost four times India's external debt of four years ago, is disputed by the World Bank, which places the total debt at $58.18 billion.

India challenges the bank's inclusion of categories it says lie outside the national debt.

Mr Faliero said the latest debt figure included borrowings from the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

In contrast, India's foreign reserves as of June 30 this year stood at $3.6 billion excluding gold reserves and Special Drawing Rights, the minister said, adding that the government was trying to reduce the trade deficit by promoting exports and curtailing non-essential imports.

India's opposition parties have warned of a possible financial crunch and that unplanned IMF borrowing could steer India into a foreign debt trap.

Delhi Police Seize 22 Kg of Heroin; 2 Arrested

BK3107032289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Delhi police have seized 22 kilograms of heroin worth 22 crore rupees in the international market. Two persons have been arrested in this connection.

Iran

Mohtashemi: U.S. Behind 'Ubayd Abduction

LD3107115589 Tehran IRNA in English 1146 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 31, IRNA—The interior minister today accused the U.S. of being behind the abduction of prominent Lebanese alim Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd by Zionist forces.

In a message to Lebanese 'ulema, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi said "the abduction of the combatant alim has been carried out with coordination of the world-devouring U.S."

Addressing Lebanese theologians, Mohtashemi said "as long as the al-Quds occuping regime dominates Palestine, you should not take off your combat uniforms but rather should take revenge on the U.S. and the criminal Israel."

He also called on 'ulema at Jabal Amal and Hizballah fighters to escalate their attacks against the interests of the U.S. and Israel.

A group of Israeli commandos, flown in aboard a helicopter, landed at Jibshit village in southern Lebanon Friday and after surrounding the home of its Friday prayer leader, kidnapped him together with two of his associates.

The interior minister, condemning international circles for their silence on U.S.-Israeli plots, held "the American and Israeli criminals" responsible for any reaction by the children of Islam.

Station Commentary Views Kidnapping

LD3007173889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1106 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] The terrorist action taken by the Israeli regime in kidnapping Shaykh 'Abd al-Karim 'Ubayd, the prayer leader of Jibshit in south Lebanon, has drawn condemnations worldwide. The reactions have spilled from this region. Apart from the Islamic countries, some European and American countries, together with the UN secretary general, have condemned this act in one way or another, or have called it a regrettable action.

The two Lebanese Shiite movements of Hizballah and Amal, which reached a more united position in some issues recently in Tehran, have asked for a public strike for tomorrow. According to some analysts, one of the reasons the Zionist regime chose this particular time for its act of terrorism was the unification of these two Lebanese Shiite groups. Jibshit, with its prayer leader kidnapped, is one of the important strongholds of Hizballah and is situated in an area that is guarded by the Amal Movement. Hizballah has reiterated that these operations clearly show the reaction that the agreements reached by the heads of Amal and Hizballah in Tehran has had inside the Zionist regime.

Nabih Birri, the head of the Amal Movement, has said that their reply to this action will be very tough.

The kidnapping of Shaykh 'Abd al-Karim 'Ubayd, is not an ordinary kidnapping, but an attack on all Shiites to disrupt their unity, so the people will think that the unity in their ranks has ended.

Political sources in Lebanon and Tehran [as heard] believe one of the important effects of the recent agreements signed between Hizballah and Amal will be a considerable increase in the anti-Zionist operations in south Lebanon; and the Israeli regime has tried to give a kind of warning with this kidnapping, implying that it would reply harshly to any action taken against its soldiers or its supporters in the so-called the South Lebanese Army.

It seems the kidnapping of Shaykh 'Ubayd can in no way create any obstacles to anti-Zionist operations, but it will encourage the Lebanese Muslim revolutionaries to continue their struggles harder than before. On the other hand, although the Western countries like the United States and Britain have called this an unsatisfactory act, it seems that these two governments, which have had a few of their nationals kidnapped in Lebanon, are pleased with this terrorist action taken by Israel, considering that the Western propaganda limited [as heard] have themselves cooked up the rumor that Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim

'Ubayd is one of the perpetrators of kidnappings and has been involved in the kidnapping of Colonel Higgins, a U.S. colonel who was supervising the cease-fire in south Lebanon.

As our country's prime minister, Mir Hoseyn Musavi, has said, it is possible that the kidnapping of Shaykh 'Ubayd will have a negative effect on the fate of the hostages in Lebanon.

It is clear that the United States and Israel are both perpetrators of international terrorism. Many times they have been recognized as such by the world, clearly involving themselves in terrorist acts or obvious acts of aggression affecting many nations' fates. And the kidnapping of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, Jibshit's prayer leader, has increased their crimes and prepared the grounds for more general hatred of them in the world at large.

The kidnapping of Shaykh 'Ubayd, not only does not help solve Lebanon's problems, but will make them more complex and will confront the United States and Israel with new obstacles in that country.

Propaganda Office Condemnation

LD3107172189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the Islamic Propaganda Organization in a statement today condemned the kidnaping of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, the Friday prayers leader of Jibshit town in Lebanon, by Zionist regime commandos and called on the world's Muslims to unite and continue their relentless struggle against the Zionist regime and its supporters.

REUTER Cited on Higgins' Execution

LD3107191989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Excerpt] According to a REUTER report, the Organization of the Oppressed of the Earth today issued a statement in which it declared that it had executed Colonel William Higgins, the U.S. spy. According to that report, a videotape was enclosed with the statement, and it shows Higgins' executed body.

According to the agencies, the statement emphasized that this action was taken to punish the criminal United States and the Zionist regime for the abduction of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd by the Zionist regime's commandos, and for not seriously considering the ultimatum pertaining to the release of the shaykh and those accompanying him. The statement adds: We promise our martyrs and our nation that we will continue our path until Israel is uprooted and the hands of the United States are cut from Lebanon. The statement also stresses: Once again we insist on our position concerning the need to release the shaykh and the two people accompanying him, because what is to come later will be even more severe. The statement mentions the time of the execution, which corresponds with the time previously announced; that is, sometime in the afternoon according to [Lebanese] local time.

AFP and UP have also reported the execution of Colonel Higgins by the Organization of the Oppressed of the Earth. [passage omitted]

ABRAR Comments

LD0108083489 Tehran IRNA in English 0810 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 1, IRNA—The reported execution of an American officer by his Lebanese abductors "will not make anyone happy" but an Iranian daily stressed American deaths should not create greater concern than the almost daily killing of Palestinians by Israel.

"With the death of an American colonel, the banner of human rights is once again being raised... just because a blue-eyed, an American has died," it said in an editorial Tuesday.

"Has the civilized world, the Western world, the industrial world, the world of the blue-eyed people ever thought once, for just a moment, about the fate of Palestinians...who are bearing the death of a dear one everyday?"

The Organization of the Oppressed on Earth in Lebanon Monday said it executed Lt. Col. William Higgins after Israel refused to set free prominent Lebanese prayer leader Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd.

'Ubayd was abducted by Zionist commandos from his home in a border village in southern Lebanon Friday. ABRAR said Higgins fate was a directly linked to the Israeli action and the West's support for Tel Aviv.

"The trumpets of human rights were not blown at all when the Zionist thieves trespassed Lebanese territory and shamelessly kidnapped a human being," it said.

"The death of the American Colonel William Higgins in Lebanon is the direct result and reaction to the abduction of Shaykh 'Abd-al- Karim 'Ubayd... by the Zionist regime."

The paper said the West was supporting Israel in its crimes by giving it arms and money and allowing the Zionist regime to slaughter Palestinians.

"It has been forty years that the civilized Western world has been doing this and no one in the West has asked 'why are you killing Palestinians and why are you burning Palestine?'"

Commentary Views Higgins' Execution

LD0108122489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1100 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Unattributed commentary: "The Execution of Colonel Higgins and the Complication of the Hostage Crisis in Lebanon"]

[Text] The hasty terrorist action of Israel in kidnapping Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd has now been transformed, with the execution of an American hostage, into a very complicated and extensive problem. With the abduction of Shaykh 'Ubayd, the Zionist regime intended first to affect the new agreement between the Amal and Hizbollah Movements, and, as the next step, according to its official declaration, to seek the exchange of its prisoners and Western hostages with Shaykh 'Ubayd and a few others.

In any case, it seems that the statement of the Oppressed of the Earth secret organization that the U.S. colonel, [William] Richard Higgins, has brought about a new situation, which disturbs previous aims. Higgins was the deputy commander of UN Forces supervising the cease-fire in southern Lebanon, and was kidnapped nearly 2 years ago. The Organization of the Oppressed of the Earth announced once before, last summer, that it intended to execute Higgins, although it seems that the threat was not taken very seriously by U.S. officials.

On the other hand, there is no doubt that in the kidnapping of Shaykh 'Ubayd there existed a before-the-fact coordination [hamahangi-ye qabli] between the United States and Israel. Israeli officials have affirmed that what they call the battle against terrorism takes place in consultation with the United States. Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's war minister has openly said that Israel is in constant contact with the United States.

According to political circles, Israel's terrorist act of abducting Shaykh 'Ubayd has had a very high cost for Tel Aviv and Washington. The United States is now trying to separate itself from Israel in the crisis. The comment of Senator Robert Dole, leader of the Republicans in the U.S. Senate, apparently took place within that framework. He said: I hoped that the Israelis would have thought of the consequences before doing things which would endanger the lives of American citizens, and the United States cannot continue to justify everything which Israel does.

At the same time, such comments have not convinced Lebanese hostage-takers, and they apparently intend to bring about circumstances which will increase U.S. pressure on Israel. The threat of two Lebanese organizations to execute three, or two other Western hostages shows the resulting complication.

In the meantime, it seems as if there is no way out of the current deadlock. If Israel is forced to release Shaykh 'Ubayd, it will be said that Washington and Tel Aviv have surrendered to what they call terrorism, and have, so to speak, undertaken an embarrasing retreat. And if Shaykh 'Ubayd is not released, more Western hostages may be executed, and then the pressure of public opinion on the United States and the Israel will increase.

Another way may be a direct attack by U.S. or Israeli commandos or their mercenaries on those they claim are involved in hostage taking in Lebanon. The situation would become so complicated that it will be difficult to resolve. Although kidnapping and hostagetaking in such circumstances is a reprehensible matter, incompatible with humanitarian and Islamic values, it is, nevertheless, clear at this point that state terrorism has had a high cost for the United States and Israel, and even for a few other Western governments.

Velayati on Shevardnadze's Visit, 'Ubayd

LD3107120489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] In an interview today, Foreign Affairs Minister Velayati answered reporters questions. According to the Central News Unit, when asked about the pending visit by Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze to Iran and talks about Afghan issues, Velayati said: Discussion about Afghanistan will be one of the issues in the talks. However, the most important issue is bilateral relations and issues of interest to both countries. We will also talk about the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598, because the Soviet Union is a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

Describing Iran's position with regard to the abduction of Shaykh 'Ubayd, and the death threat against Higgins, our foreign minister said: We believe that people who believe in human rights must show uniform reaction to such incidents. We condemn the kidnapping of Shaykh 'Ubayd, and we ask the international community to put pressure on the Zionist regime to release him. The threat against Higgins has nothing to do with us. However, we condemn any kind of kidnapping or death threat.

Concerning the planned talks with the Soviet foreign minister about Afghan issues, Velayati said: As the Soviet Union began its withdrawal from Afghanistan several months ago, we have begun talks with that country, the Afghan mujahidin, and Pakistan. We believe that now Soviet forces have withdrawn from Afghanistan, no other power has the right to interfere in Afghanistan. We welcome a Muslim government chosen by the people of Afghanistan.

Concerning relations with the West since the establishment of relations with the Soviet Union, the foreign minister said: The establishment of ties with a country does not mean forgetting our foreign policy principles. We will establish relations with any country as long as there as no obstructions in the path of relations. Of course, the question of the United States is another matter. From the start, the United States adopted a

policy of enmity toward us, and it has continued that policy. Velayati added: Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the Islamic Republic of Iran's new president, has spoken several times about this. When the United States ceases its enmity and returns our confiscated property, it will have shown its goodwill. Going on to relations with Britain, Velayati said: Several months ago a law was approved in the Majlis, and the establishment of relations between Britain and Iran will be within the framework of that law.

Concluding the interview, our country's foreign minister spoke about the Salman Rushdie issue. He said: The decree of his eminence the imam—may God be satisfied with his deeds—is a view accepted by all Islamic countries. We cannot compromise with respect to principles. What the imam asserted was a principle, and there can be no compromise.

USSR's Shevardnadze Arrives for 2-Day Visit

LD3107203589 Tehran IRNA in English 2031 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 31, IRNA—The Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze accompanied by his wife and a delegation arrived here tonight at the invitation of his Iranian counterpart on a two-day official visit.

Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his wife welcomed their Soviet guests at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport.

Shevardnadze is scheduled to hold talks with President-elect Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani as well as other Iranian officials on the Afghan issue and other matters of mutual interest.

Tehran Not Guilty of Kurdish Leader's Death

LD2707134289 Tehran IRNA in English 1310 GMT 27 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 27, IRNA—A Kurdish leader could not have been murdered by Tehran because such an act would frighten others from making peace with the Islamic Republic, according to an article.

The daily KEYHAN in a major article Thursday said the KDP-IRAN [Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran] leader 'Abdorrahman Qasemlu, who was gunned down in the Austrian capital two weeks ago, was the victim of a Western plot to keep repentant opponents away from Iran.

"Certainly it is very simple for the Islamic Republic... to know that if it killed Qasemlu while negotiations were going on, the door for negotiations with others would be closed," it said. "Even those who are far from political issues can easily understand that... it would have been much more valuable for... Iran to grant amnesty to Qasemlu rather than killing him."

The article signed by Abolfazl Javadi [name as received] said it was not in the interest of the west and its agents to see Qasemlu coming to terms with Tehran. "This would have meant nothing but a declaration of bankruptcy on the part of anti-revolutionary groups, consolidation of the (Islamic Republic) and an explicit admission of deviation," it added.

An Iranian diplomat who was wounded in the attack has been flown back to Tehran. The paper said the wounded diplomat who was negotiating with Qasemlu was also proof that Iran could not have been behind the murder.

Austria Playing 'Game'

LD3007175289 Tehran IRNA in English 1745 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 30, IRNA—The Foreign Ministry Sunday accused the Austrian Government of playing a 'suspicious political game' in relation with the terrorist assassination of banned Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) Leader 'Abdorrahman Qasemlu in Vienna two weeks ago.

The outlawed KDP leader and one of his aides were shot dead while they were holding talks with Iranian diplomat Mohammad Ja'fari Sahrarudi in Vienna on ways to end hostilities with Iran. Sahrarudi was also injured by gun shots in the incident and another Iranian diplomat involved in the talks is missing.

A ministry official who asked not to be named, told IRNA that the Austrian authorities, instead of pursuing the crime, had engaged in a "political game and propaganda warfare" among themselves during the past week.

The Austrian mass media too, he said, have joined the suspicious political game by echoing the "lies and irresponsible remarks" of the Austrian officials and by portraying the Islamic Republic of Iran's representatives in the negotiations as suspects."

Austrian officials claim that the motorcycle by which the terrorists had fled had been purchased by the injured Iranian diplomat.

He said differences and clashes between Austria's political wings and the government has caused the latter's failure in discovering the reality and impartially pursuing the tragic event.

The Foreign Ministry official believed that the Austrian authorities were influenced by rival political parties some of which he said were under the influence of Iranian anti-revolutionaries' propaganda.

The official expressed hope that the Austrian officials would revise their attitude and warned them that the Islamic Republic of Iran would never surrender to a

situation of "tension and propaganda." He said Iran regards the Austrian Government responsible for follow-up of the crime and "clarifying the condition of the missing Iranian diplomat."

The Islamic Republic of Iran, he noted, was ready to cooperate with the Austrian Government in a "healthy atmosphere and far from suspicious political considerations in order to locate the terrorists who see a solution to the problems of the Kurdish people contrary to their own interests."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Election Victory Foreseen

NC2807183489 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 25 Jul 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Nation Pins Hopes on Hashemi-Rafsanjani"]

[Text] Three days more then millions of voters in Iran will go to cast their votes for the presidential elections as well as referendum on the revised constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

June 28 will go down in the history of the Islamic Republic as one of the most important events and will open a new chapter in history of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

First, because the Islamic Republic of Iran will have a president with all necessary power to tackle the problems being faced by the nation. Earlier, the president's powers were share by other centers of power which made it difficult for the smooth flow of the administration.

The founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, late Imam Khomeyni had realized the difficulties being faced by out-going administration of President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i and in fact he initiated the plan for the revision of the constitution which was implemented successfully.

Still nobody can say with hundred percent certainty that all will go smoothly and all problems will be solved at one go as far as the constitutional provisions are concerned. The constitution is a document which should be flexible and can be changed according to needs. But we expect that very many administrative problems which need priority attention of the government officials will be solved.

Secondly, it is now almost certain that Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani will win the election as the fifth president of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, it can be said beyond any doubt, is the best choice for the post.

He has a long history of struggle for freedom and then rich experiences in administrative, political and military affairs. Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's views on these subjects are known to all. It can easily be said that he takes a realistic attitude on various issues and problems whether they are domestic, regional or international. Because of this reason we can pin our hopes on his administration for the better.

Naturally, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani alone cannot fulfil all by himself what the nation needs. He needs a team which has to work in the formof a cabinet and with closer coordination and cooperation.

Cabinet formation is not an easy job but the association of Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani with various political factions in Iran could make his job somewhat easy, if as we should hope not very difficult.

In an election speech broadcast last Wednesday on the Iranian television Mr. Hashemi-Rafanjani clearly pointed out to the problems being faced by the nation and vowed that he will try his best to solve them.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the country's economy, unemployment, relations with foreign countries, status of women in society and other social benefits including the facilities for education and research.

These are problems which could not receive due attention of the Iranian officials first because of the unwanted war and problems related to the constitutional division of the administrative powers.

Now, Ayatollah Khamene'i as leader and Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani as president will find a smoother road onwhich to tread in the search for peace and prosperity not only for Iran but also for the entire region.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Thanks Voters

LD3107121289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in a message addressed to the people of Iran, considered that the extensive participation by the people in the elections and the referendum on the constitutional amendments as telling evidence of the political growth and love of the people for Islam and the revolution and praised the expression of confidence on the part of the people of our country. The text of Hashemi-Rafsanjani's message is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. With the extensive presence of our alert, self-sacrificing, religious, and revolutionary people on the scene, to amend the Constitution and elect a president, a new page has been opened in the history book of our Islamic revolution's glorious path. The soul-inspiring display of resistance, telling evidence of the political growth and love for Islam and revolution, confidence in officials, and, most important, loyalty to the path and line of his eminence, the imam of the ummah, was (?proven) in the face of the spiteful and inquisitive eyes of the world.

I firmly thank the expressions of your confidence, you honorable, tolerant, sincere, and loyal people. And I ask God Almighty to grant us success in this sensitive and crucial phase, to perform our islamic and national duties along the path determined by the late, great founder of the Islamic Republic with the guidelines of the honored mujahed [holy warrior], faqih [jurisconsult], Ayatollah Khamene'i, so that we may be able to compensate for this rare confidence shown by the Islamic ummah. I sincerely thank all officials, who staged the elections and who carried out their tasks very well, and Dr Sheybani, our close and faithful rival, who conducted the election campaign with dignity.

[Signed] Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Interviewed

PM3107154889 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 16 Jul 89 p 11

[Part one of an "exclusive" interview with 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Islamic Majlis and acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces, by staff correspondents in Tehran on 13 July]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] We would like to convey our condolences on the heart-breaking death of the Imam. It is now 40 days since the imam left us, but, thank God, the regime of the Islamic Republic is enjoying a high degree of stability. Before this, the enemies awaited the imam's death and thought that "Iran after the imam" would be something to their liking, but in fact something else happened. What is your assessment of this event and of its results?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In general, what caused the revolution's enemies to have such thoughts was their lack of understanding of the real situation in our society. They have their own assessment which they receive from their sources: undesirable elements, fugitives living abroad, or counterrevolutionaries living inside the country. They have no understanding of our society, and if they did have such an understanding, they would not be in their present situation. These elements do not even convey their true findings to their masters because they want to mislead them and secure their help.

The foreign countries' intelligence sources, especially those in the West, are incorrect and mislead these nations. I experienced an instance of this during one of my interviews. Sometimes, when they speak and express their views, it is as though a Martian were speaking and talking about unknown places. Well, perhaps this is because they—the enemies of the revolution—do not have religious principles and do not understand religious goals and aspirations. Also, they do not have a clear understanding of the relations that exist between officials in the country, the imam, the principle of the rul of the jurisconsult [velayat-e faqih] with the people. The judgment of their sources in this regard has also been incorrect from the beginning.

Of course, what happened was an extraordinary event and even we feel that it was quite against all our expectations. The imam himself was never seriously worried about the future. When we talked with him, he always used to say: Do not worry. I will go and the people will continue the work. We too had no great worry about what might happen. At the same time, certain elements emerged which made things easier—in other words, the help that the imam gave made things much easier.

The goodwill that exists among those involved is also something that the enemies do not understand. They base their entire analysis on the premise that, like everywhere else, there is a struggle for power among officials in this country. Even that is different. When there are officials who work for the revolution, following any line of thought, and something like this happens, then they forget everything else and think only of the revolution. Perhaps they may think that this is not exactly their choice, but that perhaps their own choice may be discussed at some later date. So, to sum up, my answer to this question is that in general there are no such dangers in events that occur in this country, and the people who sit in judgment outside are completely wrong.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] The death of the imam surprised everyone. Of course, none of the officials or the people expected to hear such news. Although nothing can make up for his loss, everything was done in a lawful manner and very quickly. What do you think is the secret behind this strength and stability?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the Islamic Republic of Iran, the burden of the revolution is on the shoulders of the people and we really do not depend on anything other than the people. Reliance on the people is very basic and wherever it exists there is quite a high degree of stability. Motivations here in the regime of the Islamic Republic are not material or personal—or only ever very slightly so. This is another of our secrets. Also, as I said before, the awareness and the detailed work that the imam did to strengthen and make work easy is the other of our secrets.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] Foreign analysts had all sorts of predictions for the imam's successor, except for what actually happened. They predicted a long period of chaos and even named a few successors. They said there was a power struggle here and that everyone would be at one another's throat. But everyone here showed their goodwill and acted as the backbone of the regime. What is the reason for this vast difference between predictions and reality?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] God is the ruler in the Islamic Republic. We believe that most of the people involved in some way with the revolution—the people as the basis of the revolution, and officials as those who serve the revolution—work for God. I do not wish to name exceptions, but there are a few exceptions. But this is the

nature of the regime's basic framework. What the enemies do not understand is what makes someone live in the shadow of wanting to serve his God, to please his God. Of course, someone who does not think this way does not understand anything about it. So they are entitled to form their own assessment. In addition to that, as I said before, their comprehension of certain issues is based on misinformation, which creates a gulf between their analyses and real conditions in this country.

With all due fairness, what happened with regard to the future leadership in this country was in complete contrast to our own calculations as well. Of course, the imam—may the Lord speed his journey to Jerusalem—apparently had something like this in mind and had made things easier in accordance with that, but that is not how we were thinking.

Before the danger of the death of the imam became serious, we were not thinking about this at all. We had a deputy leader before, but that was finished. From the day that finished, we had had no time to think of the future. Then we faced the imam's illness and the issue became more urgent and again there was no time to think. During the time the imam spent in hospital, all the friends were busy making arrangements and most of our efforts went into providing for his health. We only thought seriously about the future when we lost hope in the imam's ability to survive.

The afternoon of the day the imam died, there was an urgent session of the Majlis to review the Constitution. They told us to get to Jamaran as quickly as possible. When we reached there we realized that fortunately the decisionmakers had already arrived. That same night the doctors announced the imam would definitely stay in the same condition for another 24 to 48 hours. That was when we sat down and thought about the future.

In a session during which we discussed the issue we decided that leadership should be by a council, that there should a three-man council to temporarily continue the work so that after the revision of the Constitution there would be a decision based on that. Of course, Ayatollah Khamene'i was named at that session as a member of that ruling council. The session also discussed the issue of a single leadership. The same afternoon when we resumed the session again all the discussion centered on a council. If there was a difference of opinion at that time, it concerned the numbers involved, whether the council should be composed of three persons or five. We finally encountered problems when it came to the composition of the council. There was a feeling that there was a problem in decisionmaking. Then all of a sudden the session started talking in terms of having a single leader. Both Ayatollah Khamene'i and I spoke against having a single leader.

When there was a vote on single leadership, we did not cast a vote, but it received a good vote nonetheless. When the issue came up, Ayatollah Khamene'i took the microphone and spoke against the plan. Of course by then, since the proposal of a single leader had prevailed, we became serious and decided that this person could only be Ayatollah Khamene'i. From that moment I became one of his supporters. Of course, there had been no preparations in this regard. Rather, the healthy attitudes of the decisionmakers had brought us to that stage.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] What do think of Ayatollah Khamene'i's leadership?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I am completely satisfied. When I examine my conscience, I see that we had no better route to take. If we had had a council, there would have been a number of problems. If there had been someone other than Ayatollah Khamene'i, there would have been a number of problems. Of course, I have genuine respect for the people whose names were mentioned, but I know that if they had been chosen, we would had problems. God guided us. At this time I must count on God's guidance, which also goes back to your earlier question. Since the people and the officials work with goodwill, God helps us and at special times does not leave us alone. This is one of the times when God has helped us.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] One of the most important things that even our enemies admit now is the unity of the people and officials, and the strengthening of this unity after the imam's death filled the void to a large extent. Some sectors of the foreign media said this unity was temporary. Of course they are our enemies, but how do you feel about this? This unity was spontaneous, but should there be further plans to maintain it?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] This is like their previous analysis. Once again the enemies think that in an emergency-type situation, we reached a hasty decision. This is not the truth at all. As I said before, during our discussions we reached this decision naturally, and it seems we are quite settled in this regard.

Naturally, both friend and foe were worried about what would happen after the imam, but now that is not the case, and there is no reason for it to be so. Everyone can see that the 'ulema, officials, the people, and everyone views the situation with satisfaction, so there is no reason for the situation to be temporary. What could happen to destroy the unity? Some would have to disrupt the unity. A strong foreign element would have to interfere in our affairs, and we are safe from both these elements. I feel that with the wide support that the people have granted Ayatollah Khamene'i, even if there is a temptation in someone's mind, it would not have any basis. Thank God, our path is clear, especially as this time our leader is young.

Bearing in mind the conditions governing our leadership in the Constitution, it was expected that he would reach that stage at an old age. Well, that situation carried an element of perpetual uncertainty. I think that a leader that takes over the affairs of leadership of the ummah at a proper age gives us serious stability in this regard. With that in place, the other elements will not make much difference—if the president or the Majlis deputies change or the cabinet is reshuffled—all these will be adjusted in the shadow of a stable leadership.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] What means are available to strengthen and maintain this unity among the people and officials so that we will witness the same unity as a backbone for the regime and the revolution?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Of course we must safeguard this gift from God. We must safeguard it against elements that cause dissent, those who separate part of the society from the regime, and those who take from us those revolutionary ideals which create unity among our people. Of course, these elements are known to us, and because of this knowledge we can safeguard the gift.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] We are near the presidential elections. As a candidate for the presidency, what are your plans for the next 4 years?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] From the time I felt that I was in the running, I started to make plans and I have been busy. I have always worked and been busy. Even in the past we were not separate from the state. In any case, I have been one of the top officials of the regime as it now stands. I have to answer not only for the past, but also for the future. So I have not come from outside leadership circles so that people will think that I will do strange things. I have always had certain views, but because I have been in the Majlis, I could not have pursued my views with regard to executive matters.

As for our plans, with regard to our first-, second-, and third- class co-workers, I have held discussions with the people whom I think understand the situation well, I have some ideas. Of course, in our regime it is not as though the president can do whatever he wants or thinks should be done. First of all, we have in the Constitution a principle that the leader must define general policies. Therefore, we can act within the framework of general policies. Second, in the present 5-year plan we are passing through the Majlis now, the framework of our country's managers has been defined to a certain extent. It is not as though we can act outside the main framework. The Majlis and the government are very effective in defining that framework. More important than all of these things is the safeguarding of the principles which have been defined by the imam, and those are our guide. Naturally, we will move along those lines. These are the issues that exist, and we have thoughts about the future.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] What programs will form the axis of your work?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] As I said, they are the basic movement of the regime, the ideals of the revolution, and the guidelines laid down by the imam. We feel that we must keep to these. What I said are included in our duties and the general policies of the leader will also follow that same path.

With regard to foreign policy, it will be the same: "Neither East nor West." This means that we will not accept control over our lives. Under no circumstances will we allow our revolution and our country to be affected by the wishes of the East or the West. Also, we will not accept attempts to impose control. This means that we reject the idea that as we have the power to exercise control somewhere, we will do so. This does not mean we want to darken our relations with countries that want healthy relations with us. We also feel there should be peace and security in the region, so that we can rebuild and not provide any pretexts for power-seeking foreign elements wanting to increase their presence in the region because there is insecurity.

Also included in our program is the presentation of Islam as a solution that can resolve mankind's problems. This is one area where we will not be found lacking. We shall say our word to the world and to Muslims, but this does not mean interfering in the affairs of others. Guidance and the conveying of God's message is one of the duties the revolution has placed on our shoulders.

I think that in internal issues we need to expand the quantity and enhance the quality of higher education. We suffer particularly from a shortage of research. At present, we are not in a good situation in quantitative terms. There is plenty of talent going to waste because of the unsatisfactory state of education.

In terms of economics, there are several fundamental long-term projects which have to be pursued in various programs such as the 5-year plan. The control of energy sources such as water, which is being wasted in the country, and the expansion of the use of natural gas, which is the best and richest source of fuel and energy, are among our most important tasks.

Providing enough energy for economic movement, the expansion of the railroads as the best means of transport in the country, emphasis on industries which supply products for the country such as steel, petrochemicals, and agriculture—which is the best way to safeguard the country's independence and at the same time satisfy the people's major needs—could also be regarded as our other programs.

What I have mentioned are long-term projects. I am also preparing myself for the short-term projects which are my primary task. There is the issue of activating the country's production capability. At present, the country's industry is running at 30 or 40 percent capacity because of a lack of raw materials, energy, or space parts. If we were to take this step in the first years of our

incumbency I think it would go a long way toward creating jobs, and lessening the pressure caused by high prices. It would also utilize the investments already made in these areas. To place emphasis on production and current capabilities and preparing the groundwork for poduction under better conditions would be best done in depth.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] The war and the persuit of peace is at the top of the agenda in foreign affairs during the next 4 years. This issue will perhaps even have direct and decisive effects on internal matters as well. What is your policy in this regard?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Unfortunately, this policy was outlined during the lifetime of the imam. This means that during the pause that occurred at the end, he decided that we should try for peace. They started this work and the imam was very serious about this as well. Then, during the last days, when the Iraqis started a new offensive, they gave the order for large numbers of troops to be sent to the fronts. We were ready for a large scale attack. Mr Khamene'i was at the fronts. From there he telephoned to say that if the imam agreed, we should begin the attack. I said that the imam disagreed. He telephoned himself to ask Mr Ahmad to talk to the imam, and again the imam did not agree.

In that way we espoused the issue of peace seriously and we shall continue this policy. Since we are one side of the story and we feel that our enemies could take our peace-seeking as a sign of weakness, we have no choice but to keep ourselves prepared. Again the imam has outlined this—that we want to remain strong—and we are continuing to do so. We are putting special emphasis on defense industries so that we can manufacture the necessary material ourselves, and we have made good progress in that area. Being prepared for defense, but striving for peace, including this UN resolution is our policy. Following the visit that we paid to the Soviet Union and the negotiations that we had, we have more facilities for achieving peace.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] At the end of the fourth round of talks between Iran and Iraq in Geneva it was announced that the next round would be held in the middle of June or at the beginning of July. Has there been a specific time set for the negotiations, or is the issue at a standstill at the moment?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We have not set a time for the new round of talks at the moment, because the time is not ripe for talks. We are not willing to start talks that will not get anywhere. But Dr Velayati, in the talks that he had, thought that this time at least the UN secretary general and the people who are mediating were more serious than they were before, but it is too early to judge.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] Are you insisting that the next round of talks be held after the presidential elections?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] No. These issues have nothing to do with one another, because our policies will not change with the elections. Whenever the time is ripe, we will continue.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] The problems of economics, especially inflation and high prices have vastly overshadowed other issues in society. What will your policy be in this regard?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Our basic policy is to do some fundamental work and not to treat the country's problems with "pain killers." The two situations that exist are such that we have to undertake certain measures to free the people as much as possible from the burden that they carry—especially those on fixed wages, civil servants and others, and lower-incomes earners who cannot depend on anything else. They cannot make up for the shortages that exist and at the same time have no savings, and life is hard for them. The path I have chosen is as I have told you. If we could get the factories and production centers working at any price, so that they can work at full capacity, all at once, in the space of year or so it could have a major impact on the supply of goods and the alleviation of pressures.

But our final path will not be reached with these measures. We have to complete our fundamental and basic works.

Paper on Public Expectations

LD3007060489 Tehran IRNA in English 0555 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 30, IRNA—The public should not expect miracles from the new president in tackling the country's problems, the daily JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said Sunday.

The massive turn out in the elections and the referendum on constitutional reforms showed the continuation of the line of the late Imam Khomeyni. But the paper said public expectations from the new president were divided into the rational and logical, and the irrational and illogical. "It would be wrong if some people were hoping that every problem would be solved quickly once the new government takes charge," it said in an editorial.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said sorting out of issues need time. It was possible that those trying to highten public expectations and bring all government conduct and achievements under question and minimize their importance.

On the other hand the paper added that popular-backing was the new administration most important asset which could be used to steer the country towards progress and perfection. The time factor in trying to overcome problems and achieving progress should be taken into account and only then will expectations be logical.

Commentary on Election Atmosphere

NC3007103089 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Commentary by the Central News Unit Research Group]

[Text] In the name of God. What has been taking place in Islamic Iran since early Friday morning until this moment is an event which demands fresh research and study. In fact, if social and political researchers are seeking a better understanding of the Islamic society of Iran and our people's political attitudes, Friday's events would provide the best documentary evidence for the purpose. If these researchers wish to assess the Islamic revolution's performance for a decade in the context of our society's political and cultural evolution and growth, then Friday's events and similar phenomena should be viewed differently. Last Friday should not be considered merely a day for the election of a president and participation in a referendum on the Constitution, but an intensive test for a magnanimous society, only 54 days after the demise of its great leader. Friday was in fact a day when social and political researchers and analysts saw clearly, with their own eyes, what goes on within Iranian society, and our Muslim nation had the opportunity to see its reflection once again in the mirror of the elections and the referendum.

As you are aware, according to the latest statistics, Islamic Iran is the 16th largest county in area and the 21st in population in the world. In addition, in the past decade, it has witnessed the most important phenomena and far-reaching developments in its social and governmental structure. Of course, it is possible that in the past 10 years, these developments—because of their swift pace and immense depth—may naturally have prevented the simultaneous realization of other new opportunities. Consequently, as has been seen on many previous occasions, researchers and analysts have always lagged a step behind in gauging the implications of current events in our country.

Despite all this, there have been numerous opportunities in the past 10 years for researchers to study the rapid and deeprooted revolutionary developments and their repercussions in our great society. The most salient of these opportunities were provided by the 11-fold [as heard] elections which have taken place in Iran in the past 10 years, prior to Friday's election and referendum, in which the scale of the people's participation and voting clearly and precisely manifested the Iranian people's attitudes and ideas for all to see. In any case, because of the false propaganda by the Islamic revolution's enemies, this vast scale of the people's clear mandate to the Islamic Republic was swathed in ambiguity for quite a while after each election.

Since the Islamic Republic's enemies lost all hope of inflicting any great harm on the Islamic Republic's system during the imam's lifetime, and did not reap any benefits from the concealment and distortion of facts, a major part of their plots was postponed until the period after the imam's demise. The theme of their daily political and propaganda campaign was that, following the imam's death, on the one hand the situation in the vast Islamic society and country of Iran would deteriorate, and on the other, our people would not display any inclination to participate in political affairs. Among these fallacious assumptions, the most outstanding was the speculation that the imperialist and Zionist media had disseminated regarding peace and security during Friday's elections.

On Friday, the great Iranian nation and many correspondents were witnesses to the fact that not only was the atmosphere during the elections simply magnificent, but it was one of the most peaceful days in Islamic Iran. The perceptive people, with their immense acumen and comprehension of their actual and potential abilities, keeping in view the dear imam's goals and guidance, went to the polls with absolute calm. The desire for some untoward incident remained unfulfilled in the hearts of the enemies of Islam and the Islamic Republic. Our sincere and dedicated people clearly displayed, in practice, that which the claimants of democracy merely dream about; that is, complete peace and security during elections.

The unprecedented order and calm that prevailed on Friday at all the crowded election constituencies proved that all the exhortations of the venerable leader of the nation had been implemented.

Ahmad Khomeyni Congratulates Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD3107121689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Jul 89

["Text" of message from Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni to President-elect Hashemi-Rafsanjani on 31 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Honorable brother, Your Eminence Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, honorable president of the Islamic Republic, may your blessings continue. Greetings, and I contratulate you and the brave Iranian nation on the election of your eminent self to the presidency of our Islamic system.

God willing, under the care of his holiness the lord of the age [the hidden imam]—may our souls be sacrificed to him—Your Eminence will succeed in further strengthening the inviolable principles of the neither East nor West policy and the defense of the oppressed.

The great Iranian nation, with its political maturity, knows that the country's economic situation is not such that problems can be resolved in a short time. Undoubtedly, the nation will as always, in crisis and in all circumstances, stand by its loyal officials.

The great fondness that his eminence the imam—may God be satisfied with his deeds—had for you speaks of his strong trust in a person who has spent most of his life in combating oppression and colonialism and who for years, in the terrible dungeons of Taqut's [idol at Mecca; a derogatory reference to the shah] prison, defended our Islamic dignity and our dear people.

I consider it a duty to stand by your side as before and to serve you to the limits of my ability. Today, counterrevolution inside and outside the country and global arrogance are frustrated at the unity of the honorable Iranian nation, the standard-bearers of revolution. The same people who for years through their propaganda loudspeakers have analyzed and predicted the armed struggle after the imam have been disappointed today.

May exalted God grant you success in greater service in the path of our dear imam's aims.

[Signed] Ahmad Khomeyni
[Dated] 31 July 1989

Leaders Send Congratulatory Messages

LD3107195689 Tehran IRNA in English 1757 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 31, IRNA—Bangladeshi President General Hussain Mohammad Ershad congratulated Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani for his election as the fourth president of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

"I have firm conviction that under your wise and able leadership the brotherly people of Iran would continue to make significant stride in all areas of life and that relations between our two governments and two peoples would be further strengthened to our mutual benefit," President Ershad said in his message.

Similar messages were sent to the Iranian president-elect by Kuwait Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad Al Sabah, Lebanese Premier Salim al-Huss, Libyan parliament, and chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) Hojjat ol-Eslam Muhammad Bakr Hakim.

Iravani Cited on Fishing Cooperation With USSR

NC0108080389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Mr Iravani, minister of economic affairs and finance, who has gone to Rasht to inspect Gilan Province's economic installations, inspected the Martyr Dr Beheshti fish farm at the Sangar Dam in Rasht.

The Central News Unit reports that during this visit, our minister of economic affairs and finance was interviewed and discussed the outlook of economic relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Soviet Union. He said that within the framework of these relations, the "Iran Bashir" vessel carrying cargo and flying the flag of the Islamic Republic of Iran and an Iranian crew is to berth at Bandar-e Anzali, and that with the arrival of this vessel, maritime relations and the carrying of cargo via the Caspian Sea will begin between the two countries.

Referring to the increase in the navigation of Iranian vessels in the Caspian Sea and to the formation of a joint shipping company between Iran and the Soviet Union, Mr Iravani said: Navigation in the Caspian Sea and exports and imports from Scandinavian countries and Canada to the Islamic Republic of Iran and vice versa through this waterway are extremely economical. In relation with this, with the purchase of two vessels from Bulgaria which will be delivered to Iran next year, as well as with the purchase of another vessel from the Soviet Union, a total number of four vessels can be sailed in the Caspian Sea.

He added that last [Iranian] year, the Iranian Fisheries Department had a 63-percent increase in the fishing of proteinacious fish in the northern and southern waters of our country compared to 1366 [year beginning 21 March 1987]. This figure shows a turning point in the activities of the Fisheries Department after the Islamic Revolution.

In conclusion, the minister of economic affairs and finance said: With the implementation of vast fishing programs, and with the implementation of the Iranian-Soviet agreement on fishing in the Caspian Sea, the quantity of various fish to be caught in the county's southern and northern waters is to reach to more than 1 million tonnes.

Caspian Sea Ships Unload First Soviet Goods

LD0108084989 Tehran IRNA in English 0830 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Rasht, Gilan Prov, Aug 1, IRNA—The first Iranian shipping line in the Caspian Sea was officially inaugurated as 1,400 tons of goods from the Soviet port of Baku was unloaded at Anzali Port Tuesday.

The 2,885-ton 'Iran Bashir' will import and export 400,000 tons of goods annually between Iranian ports of Nowshahr and Anzali, 250 and 50 kms east and west of here, and the Soviet port.

The operation is part of agreements reached with the Soviets during the Moscow trip last month of Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

The Inauguration ceremony was attended by Minister of roads and Transport Mohammad Seyyed Kya, Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs Mohammad Javad Iravani, Minister of Construction Jihad Gholamreza Foruzesh and local officials.

Annual capacity of Iranian ports will be boosted to 33 million tons in the near future from the present 28 million tons, said a ports and shipping company official told IRNA at the ceremony. He said so far rials 5.9 billion (dlrs 82 mn) will be allocated this year for expansion of the country's ports and their facilities. He said a dredger ship worth dlrs 8 million purchased from abroad is to start operations in the near future.

Commentary Assesses Expanding Ties With USSR

LD2707222189 Tehran in English to Europe 1951 GMT 27 Jul 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The first round of talks between Mr Behzad Nabavi, Iran's heavy industries' minister, and Mr Konstantin Katushev was held in Moscow yesterday.

In this meeting, the prospects for cooperation between the two countries and the transfer of technology and boosting industrial [word indistinct] were reviewed. Generally speaking, expansion of political and economic ties with the East-Bloc states has been one of the objectives which has been pursued by the Islamic Republic since the outset of the Islamic revolution's victory, and in the framework of the policies in that of preserving the economic and political independence of Iran, paying mutual respect and non-intervention in one another's internal affairs.

Based on this, the expansion of Iran-Soviet ties becomes something unavoidable, in view of the geographical conditions in the long-stretching water and land frontiers, mutual economic needs, and common cultural characteristics. Despite this, political and economic ties between Iran and the Soviet Union came across some political constraints in previous years. However, withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan, and an appropriate posting by Moscow on the establishment [of] peace between Iran and Iraq, were among the factors that have created a favorable ground for improvement of bilateral relations.

There emerged a change in Iran-Soviet ties, from the message of the Imam Khomeyni, the late leader of the Islamic revolution, to the Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, last January, and his reciprocal message to the imam. In this very connection the visit of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the acting commander in chief of Iran's Armed Forces and the speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly to the Soviet Union this June has greatly improved the trend of these talks. [passage omitted]

In order to follow up the implementation of the recent economic accords concluded between Iran and the Soviet Union, Mr 'Ali Majedi, Iran's deputy minister of economic affairs and finance, in his visit to Moscow last week discussed the issues of the exploration and production of natural gas and its export to the USSR with that country's officials.

In this same connection a high-ranking political and economic team, headed by Mr Behzad Nabavi, the minister of heavy industries of our country, arrived in Moscow yesterday on the official invitation from Mr Katushev, the Soviet foreign trade minister. In the first round of talks the two sides stressed that the [word indistinct] held between Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Mr Gorbachev have brought about a firm base in all spheres for expanding and straightening bilateral ties. On the whole the factors effected in bilateral relations, such as the historical background, elimination of political obstacles, common characteristics, reciprocal needs, recent development in ties, and the [word indistinct] of the two country's leaders, to expand bilateral relations, has created a favorable ground for improving the level of mutual ties.

Observers of the affairs, by referring to these points and factors, stress the strategic nature of the ties rather than their being tactical.

Deputy Foreign Minister, Libyan Envoy Confer

LD3107180889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] The Libyan envoy to Iran discussed bilateral relations, at a meeting with the deputy foreign minister. Noting the forthcoming joint commission to be held in Tehran, he announced Libya's readiness to increase the level of economic cooperation. The deputy foreign minister of our country in response welcomed the forthcoming trip by the Libyan delegation to the joint commission, noting that exchange of such missions aids the expansion and strengthening of bilateral relations. A Libyan delegation is in Tehran to prepare the grounds for the meeting of the joint commission.

Expansion of Economic Ties With Bahrain Discussed

LD2607104989 Tehran IRNA in English 1027 GMT 26 Jul 89

["Talks on Expansion of Economic Ties with Bahrain"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, July 26, IRNA—Iranian Charge d'Affaires to Manama Hoseyn Naraqiyan met with Bahraini Minister of Commerce and Agriculture Habib Ahmad al-Qasim in Manama Wednesday. They discussed mutual economic cooperation. Both stressed the need for further promotion of economic ties and existing potentials.

Communications Center Opens in Khorasan

LD2707102189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0730 GMT 27 Jul 89

[Text] The communication center of Hajjibad of (Noqa), around Qa'enan, was inaugurated and began operations. With the opening of that center, the residents of that village will be able to establish telephone contact with all

parts of the country, through the use of an FX line. All the costs of that center have been met by Khorasan Province's general communications office.

Opium Seized in Fars, Kerman; Gang 'Smashed'

LD2907122689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Text] As a result of the efforts by the Fars Province Revolution Committee Guards, a narcotic distributing gang has been smashed in the provinces of Fars and Kerman and 5 kgs of opium have been discovered.

According to an IRNA report, two Kalashnikov rifles and 300 bullets were confiscated from four members of the arrested gang. Thus far during the second stage of the antinarcotics campaign, 1,100 addicts have been recognized and arrested and a number of narcotic distributing gangs have been smashed.

Hamadan Drug Ring Uncovered, Cracked

LD3007101489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0730 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] While implementing the second phase of the antinarcotics program, Revolution Guards in Hamadan Province have uncovered and smashed a huge narcotics ring procuring and distributing narcotics.

According to a Central News Unit report, all agents of this ring in Hamadan, Bakhtaran, and other provinces of the country confessed to buying and selling 600 kgs of opium. At the time of arrest 8.4 kg of opium was found. The arrested were handed over to Hamadan's Islamic revolutionary court.

Work Camps in Province Ready for Addicts

LD3007143189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Excerpts] According to IRNA, the commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Committee of Sistan va Baluchestan Province announced that with the start of the second phase of the antinarcotics program in the province, all addicts will be taken off the streets and sent to special work-therapy camps run by the Islamic Revolutionary Prosecutor and Prison Organization.

As of today, various passes used by drug traffickers have been closed by guards from the committee's Meqdad Operational Headquarters. He added: To cure addicts from their habit, through the cooperation of the governorate general, prison organization, and the Islamic Revolutionary Committee, four large camps have been constructed in Zabol, Zahedan, and Khash as well as one in Iranshahr with a capacity of over 5,000. These are now ready to receive addicts. These addicts will be working in these work-therapy camps for a year. If they are completely cured after a year, they will return to the family. [passage omitted]

Warning all those who try to supply narcotics to addicts, he stated that any place where narcotics are used will be confiscated by the government and those who supply the addicts will be dealt with severely. To stop the movement of drug traffickers, the committee has extensive plans including stationing forces in strategic passes and areas used by drug traffickers as well as controlling polluted regions and physically closing such passes. These plans will go into effect in the near future.

Sri Lanka

Curfew Reimposed; 57 Dead in New Violence

BK3107150289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1430 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Colombo, July 31 (AFP)—Some 57 people, including 40 Tamil guerrillas and three Indian soldiers, have died in a fresh outbreak of violence across Sri Lanka, diplomats and security sources said here Monday.

The government reimposed a curfew throughout Sri Lanka at 6:00 p.m. (1230 GMT), after a 13-hour break, to prevent violence by a radical anti-government group.

The worst fighting was reported from the island's Tamil-populated Mannar District, where Indian soldiers attacked some 150 Tamil guerrillas late Sunday killing 33 and wounding 25 in a seven-hour battle which ended Monday. Three Indian soldiers were killed and as many wounded in the fighting, described as one of the bloodiest in recent weeks between Indian troops and the powerful Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) group.

Four civilians and seven Tamil militants were among others killed in the northeast where New Delhi has some 45,000 troops under a 1987 bilateral peace accord which sought to end a Tamil separatist campaign.

The fighting came as Indian and Sri Lankan officials continued talks in New Delhi on a time frame for the withdrawal of the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) from the island nation.

Security officials said 10 other people, including a paramilitary officer were killed elsewhere in Sri Lanka in violence linked to the militant Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front).

Indian troops surprised the 150 LTTE rebels with rockets, rocket propelled grenades and machine guns when the guerrillas were assembling near a village in Mannar to attack an Indian army camp, diplomatic sources said.

The LTTE, apparently caught unawares replied with a massive barrage of rockets from several buildings including a church, where its militants were holed up, killing three soldiers and wounding three more. Four civilians also died in the Mannar fighting.

Tamil sources reached over the telephone in northern Vavuniya District said fighting in nearby coastal Mannar lasted all through the night and rocket explosions were heard up to a radius of several kilometres (miles).

Indian troops in Sri Lanka have been seeking to disarm the LTTE since October 1987 after the group repudiated the peace pact and refused to surrender arms. Since then more than 1,000 Indians and thousands of suspected rebels and civilians have died in fighting.

Indian soldiers shot dead two other LTTE militants in seperate incidents in the northern Jaffna Peninsula late Sunday, diplomatic sources said.

The LTTE ambushed a van carring guerrillas of the rival Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation in northern Kilinochchi town before dawn Sunday and shot dead five men, Tamil sources said.

Diplomats said that Indian troops also overran and destroyed an LTTE camp Sunday in eastern Batticaloa District. No details were available.

Elsewhere in Sri Lanka, 10 people died in violence linked to the JVP. A paramilitary officer, two volunteer policemen and two civilians were killed in central Matale District Sunday when the JVP blasted their jeep with a landmine, security sources here said.

In other incidents late Sunday, security forces gunned down two JVP activists while the JVP killed three civilians.

Also Monday, thousands of residents went without drinking water at Nugegoda town near here after suspected JVP men bombed an underground pipeline, a government statement said.

Meanwhile, shops put up shutters and roads became deserted by early afternoon here and across most of Sri Lanka after the government reimposed a night curfew at 6.00 p.m. It is to be lifted Tuesday morning.

The curfew was first imposed midnight Thursday to prevent street protests called by the JVP to mark the second anniversary of the 1987 accord. But thousands of people clashed with security forces resulting in firing by police and troops which left more than 130 people dead and hundreds wounded.

The JVP has been blamed for more than 2,500 deaths since the accord was signed.

35 LTTE Men, 3 Indian Soldiers Killed

BK3107160689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] The Tamil National Council comprising the TELO, EPRLF and ENDLF [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization, Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front and Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front] has urged India to consider a total pullout of the Peacekeeping Force [PKF] only after devolution of powers to the Northeastern Provincial Council is complete. In a statement issued in Trincomalee, the council said if any decision to pull out the PKF before the devolution is taken, it will be against the interests of the Tamils and will compel the council to take some unavoidable steps to protect the lives of the Tamils.

Meanwhile, the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] has suffered heavy casualties while attempting to step up violence in the Northeastern Province in Sri Lanka. Thirty-three LTTE men were killed and 30 wounded when they launched an attack on a PKF post at Adampan in Mannar District yesterday. A PKF press release issued in Trincomalee today said that over 150 militants attacked the PKF camp, using rocket launchers, machine guns and mortars. Groups of them had also occupied buildings on the outskirts of the Adampan township, including a church, from where they fired rockets. The attack was repulsed by the PKF. The exchange of fire, which started early afternoon, continued for about 7 hours. Among the LTTE leaders killed in the incident were (Padhari Nathan), (Jack Sahi) and (Kanu). Three PKF soldiers were killed and three injured, including an officer, in action.

In the Jaffna sector, two LTTE militants were killed and four injured in two separate encounters at Kokkuvil and (Eranamedu). The LTTE also launched attacks on the PKF in Trincomalee and Batticaloa sectors. The attacks were repulsed.

JVP Held Responsible for 6 Deaths 31 Jul

BK0108103589 Hong Kong AFP in English 1020 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Colombo, Aug 1 (AFP)—Rebels shot dead one of Sri Lanka's most popular radio announcers and five others in continuing violence in the island, military and police sources said here Tuesday.

Two police constables were killed instantly when in a bomb attack on a busy street here Tuesday, police sources said. Three more policemen were injured in the Sri Lankan capital in a second bomb attack within hours. No details were immediately available.

The killings were attributed to the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP, People's Liberation Front), which has been blamed for hundreds of deaths since India and Sri Lanka signed an accord in July 1987 to end Tamil separatism.

The JVP shot dead Premakeerthi De Alwis, an announcer in the state-run Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC) who had reportedly appeared in a breakfast TV show during a JVP-sponsored curfew over the weekend. Six men barged into Mr. De Alwis's

residence at Homagama, near here, during curfew hours late Monday, took him out and shot at him from point blank range near a police station, a military spokesman said.

The killers told his wife before taking him away that he would be returned in about three hours time. But he was dragged into a bylane and cut down with two bullets, one of which pierced his head. A SLBC spokesman said his body lay on the road for two hours before being removed.

It was not clear how the killers managed to come to Mr. De Alwis's house despite a night curfew which the government said was being enforced by security forces armed with shoot-on-sight orders.

Mr. De Alwis, father of a seven-month-old child, was described here as an all-rounder who also appeared in television programmes and wrote lyrics for Sinhalese-language films.

Journalists and newsroom staff at the SLBC, whose chief Thevis Guruge was killed by the JVP here last week, Tuesday asked the government to immediately change its "biased media policy" to prevent further killings.

A staff spokesman said the demand was made to minister of state for information, A.J. Ranasinghe, when he visited the SLBC headquarters.

"The government says we can live in SLBC offices if we are afraid," the spokesman said. "Is that security? What of our families? We work and we are now sitting ducks for subversives."

He said the staff had told Mr. Ranasinghe that the only long-term solution to end the killings of SLBC employees was to end the "biased media policy" of the government.

In other incidents, suspected JVP militants killed two men, believed to be supporters of the ruling United National Party, at their homes in nearby Gampaha District also during curfew late Monday, the military spokesman said.

The spokesman said unidentified men, presumed to be JVP activists, killed a man in southern Matara District Monday.

Meanwhile, an island-wide curfew is to go into effect at 7 p.m. (1330 GMT) Tuesday after a 14-hour relaxation.

'Nightmare' of IPKF Presence Summarized

BK2807062689 Hong Kong AFP in English 0502 GMT 28 Jul 89

[By M.R. Narayan Swamy]

[Text] Colombo, July 28 (AFP)—India and Sri Lanka are deep in trouble two years after they signed an accord that was expected to end Tamil separatism and bring about peace in the strife-torn island nation.

What once seemed a straight fight between Colombo and Tamil militants has developed into a nightmare for Indian troops and resulted in an unprecedented diplomatic crisis between the two countries.

The deaths in fighting of more than 1,000 Indian soldiers, and wounding of more than 2,500 others, has not helped bring peace to the island's Tamil region, but pushed the Tamil cause, or what remains of it, into oblivion.

Political analysts here say the accord, whose second anniversary falls Saturday, has only compounded problems for Sri Lanka, which seems to be passing through an unprecedented phase of internal and diplomatic crisis.

Tamil rebels continue to kill Indian and occasionally Sri Lankan troops, and each other, with bloody vengeance. Elsewhere, rebels from the majority Sinhalese community are effectively spearheading an insurgency aimed at capturing state power.

Killings have now become so common and so rampant that often the death of even a dozen people claims only a few paragraphs in newspapers.

The country is governed under sweeping emergency powers that give police and troops licence to detain suspects without trial. Bodies of those shot dead by security forces can be disposed of without inquests.

Security sources and travellers report about young men shot dead and left by the roadside, tied to lamp posts or hung from trees. Often, bodies are badly burnt and barely identifiable.

But it is not simply law and order that is worrying Colombo. Sri Lanka faces a major dispute with its giant neighbour India, which has some 45,000 troops in the island and is refusing to withdraw them despite calls by President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

On Thursday, Sri Lanka, faced with mounting anti-Indian protests, tried to defuse the situation by relenting on a July 29 withdrawal deadline set by Mr. Premadasa last month, if New Delhi met two conditions.

India responded by inviting Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne for talks on the troops' pullout. Colombo virtually declined the invitation by putting new conditions.

The Sri Lankan situation, most diplomats here say, is extremely fluid.

Two years ago the situation was different. There were as many optimists as pessimists then.

It was on July 29, 1987 that Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi flew in here and signed a peace accord with then president Junius Jayewardene to end a Tamil separatist campaign and devolve autonomy to the Tamil community.

Indian troops began landing in Sri Lanka's north-east, hugged and warmly garlanded by thousands of Tamils, while thousands of Sinhalese took to the streets to protest against what they termed a sellout to "Indian imperialism".

After an uneasy calm of barely two months, Tamil groups began hitting at each other. The Indians were passive for some time before launching a military offensive against the most powerful Tamil group in October 1987.

It is an offensive that continues, having already claimed more than 1,000 soldiers and thousands of civilians and suspected militants of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

In the Sinhalese-populated areas, covering two-thirds of the country, the Indian involvement has given a new lease of life to the anti-government anti-Indian Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front).

Since the accord was signed, the JVP has been blamed for hundreds of killings, the victims ranging from security personnel to political activists on the side of the government and the 1987 accord.

Mr. Premadasa's repeated calls for peace talks have been contemptuously ignored by the JVP, which security sources admit has thousands of sympathisers today and is well-knit and armed with a huge arsenal of modern weapons.

The LTTE has, however, begun talking to Colombo directly, bypassing India, which since 1983 has served as a mediator between the Tamil groups and the Sri Lankan Government in the ethnic conflict.

"I have not seen a more complex situation in my career," said a veteran Asian diplomat who has been here for more than 10 years. "It is a place where you cannot make out who is killing whom and why. It is so confusing."

As Sri Lankans say, life is cheap but food expensive in their country.

The Gandhi-Jayewardene accord seems to have made matters worse.

"Even three years ago, this was such a nice place, with so many tourists," said Lionel Piyasena, a taxi driver for 25 years. "I get frightened today when I see these gun-toting soldiers at every corner."

On Saturday, Sri Lanka will observe the second anniversary of the accord under the threat of a JVP-sponsored "curfew" scheduled to end midnight Sunday. JVP "curfews" in Sri Lanka are more feared than the government's.

But one of the signatories to the accord feels it was a perfect pact.

"Why should people criticise me for it?" Mr. Jayewardene asked an interviewer this week. "Indian soldiers have died and Indian money has been spent on our behalf. We should be grateful to all of them."

Tamils Ready To Fight Government Troops

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[Excerpts] Colombo, July 27 (AFP)—Tamil groups will fight if Sri Lankan troops leave their barracks on the second anniversary of a Indo-Sri Lankan accord Saturday, a Tamil MP warned Thursday.

K. Premachandran of the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF), also said in a telephone interview that an estimated 10,000 members of three Tamil groups were on "full alert" across the island's north-east.

"If they come out, Tamil groups will defend the (Tamil) people and drive them back to the barracks," said Mr Premachandran speaking from the port town of Trincomalee in the east coast.

"We don't want to fight Sri Lankan troops unnecessarily, but if they don't behave we will face them," he said. "We are prepared for anything."

He said some 10,000 members of the EPRLF, the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO), and the Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front (ENDLF), had been placed on "full alert" ahead of Saturday.

The EPRLF is one of the five major Tamil groups which have accepted the 1987 Indo-Sri Lankan accord that seeks to end a Tamil separatist campaign for a homeland called Eelam. [passage omitted]

Mr Premachandran, a former EPRLF military commander, accused Sri Lankan police and troops of attempting to promote Tamil militants known to be pro-India and opposed to a hasty Indian troop withdrawal.

Most Tamil groups have said Indian troops should be withdrawn only after an alternate security force is set up in the Tamil-majority north-east. [passage omitted]

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives 26 Jul

BK2707121089 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 27 Jul 89

[Text] The 4-member Iranian delegation led by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Javad Mansuri arrived in Colombo yesterday on a 3-day official visit. The visiting deputy minister and the delegation was greeted on arrival at the airport by State Minister for Foreign Affairs John Amaratunge and senior ministry officials.

The visiting minister held a round of talks with his counterpart, John Amaratunge, at the foreign ministry in Colombo last evening. The ministers expressed their willingness to strengthen bilateral ties between the two countries. Their talks generally centered on political developments in the Indian Ocean region. Besides, they discussed ways and means to increase trade. They also discussed the possibility of providing employment to Sri Lankans and skilled and unskilled laborers in Iran and the exchange of personnel in the areas of social and cultural fields between the two countries. Iran has expressed its desire to improve joint collaboration in trade and commerce.

Mansuri Holds Talks

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[Text] Visiting Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Javad Mansuri paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister D.B. Wijetunge and Speaker M.H. Mohamed this morning. Mr Mansuri held trade talks with the minister of trade and shipping, A.R. Mansoor, yesterday. The talks focused on the improvement of bilateral trade and economic cooperation with the intention of bridging the trade gap which is in favor of Iran under the joint commission for economic and technical cooperation.

The Sri Lankan trade minister, Mr Mansoor, said that Iran had imported a lesser quantity of tea than stipulated in the joint commission [as heard] signed in 1987. The trade and shipping minister urged that Iran should take every possible measure to import the stipulated quantity of 15,000 metric tons for the 1990 and the year 1991. He expressed the hope that Iran would endeavor to attain this target.

The trade minister further said that despite various constraints and difficulties, Sri Lanka was able to purchase a fairly substantial quantity of crude oil from Iran.

The Iranian minister assured that his country would import the full quantity of tea stipulated in the agreement.

The Iranian deputy minister also held talks with the minister for labor and social welfare, Dr Ranjith Atapattu, at the parliamentary complex yesterday. The talks mainly focussed on Sri Lankan manpower mobilization in the reconstruction projects in Iran. The two sides agreed to provide the manpower needed on a government-to-government basis. The Iranian charge d'affaires in Colombo, ('Abdolreza Farazi Rab) was associated with the Iranian minister at the discussions.

The four-member Iranian delegation leaves the island this afternoon after a 3-day official visit.

President's Adviser on Foreign Affairs Named

BK2707113689 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 27 Jul 89

[Text] The president has appointed Mr Bradman Weerakoon as adviser to the president on international relations in the Presidential Secretariat. His duties will entail participating in special missions to foreign governments for the purpose of explaining and clarifying Sri Lanka's position on international affairs. He will also assist in the reconstructuring of Sri Lanka's missions overseas in line with the government's policy of making the missions the focal point of the country's activities abroad.

Mr Bradman Weerakoon has been specially handpicked by the president himself for his exceptional managerial and negotiating capabilities. He has served as secretary to several former prime ministers and as the chief executive of the International Planned Parenthood Federation prior to assuming the chairmanship of Air Lanka early this year.

Export Earnings Increased by Over 33,700 Rupees

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[Excerpt] Sri Lanka's export earnings increased by over 33,700 million rupees last year. The figure in 1987 was a little more than 13,200 million rupees. Although the country's economy has become more and more diversified, exports still remain an important determinant in economic growth. Minister of Trade and Shipping A.R. Mansoor said that the country needed a sound export-oriented production base and that the private sector could play an important role in organizing it. [passage omitted]